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Volume 18 Number 5498

AMMAN TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1993, RAGAB 15, 1414

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Israel, Vatican to swap envoys in January

TEL AVIV (AFP) - Israel and the Vatican will exchange envoys in January in a first step towards forging full diplomatic ties, Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said Monday. The appointments will be made under a 14-point agreement which Israel and the Vatican are scheduled to sign on Dec. 30, said Mr. Beilin, who represents Israel in negotiationa with the Vatican. Some details of the agreement still have to be worked out, he told AFP without elaborating. But it includes the naming of a special Israeli envoy to the Vatican with ambassador status, and a Vatican representative in Israel, be said. They will be upgraded to ambassadors by April when both sides will have completely normalised ties, he

Peres: Television threatens israel

PARIS (AFP) - The worst threat to Israel is not military. but cultural, according to Israeli Foreign Minister Shi-mon Peres. "For us, as for you. the greatest threat isn't a military invasion, but a cultural invasion and cable television is more dangerous to our identity than the intifada," the minister said in an interview published by the French newspaper Le Monde in its edition dated Tuesday. "Television knows no boundaries and for some (Israeli) youths the most important woman isn't Rebecca, nor Sarah, but Madonna," Mr. Peres said, speaking of women out of the Old Testament and of the U.S. pop star figure.

U.S. companies sanctions — report

WASHINGTON (AFP) -American corporations regalarly evade U.S. sanctions by using their foreign subsidiaries to conduct business with Cuba and Libya, the New York Times reported Monday. The companies are taking advantage of porous laws and lax enforcement of U.S. trade sanctions, the daily said, citing Treasury Department studies. A 1987 study of the American presence in Libya concluded that 160 foreign subsidiaries of 80 U.S. companies were doing at least \$266 million of trade with Tripoli. In 1991, sub-sidiaries of U.S. companies did more than \$700 million of trade with Cuba, according to another study. That amount has dropped sharply since the 1992 passage of a law barring subsidiaries from doing business with Havana.

9 killed in Algeria

ALGIERS (R) - Seven armed militants and a police inspector were killed in clashes around Algeria over the past five days, the state news agency APS quoted security services as saying on Monday. A second police inspector was killed, according to the independent newspaper Al Watan and a death notice from his family. The deaths bring to at least 169 the number of people killed this month, including 16

China to abolish

Hong Kong assembly HONG KONG (AFP) — Cbina said Monday it would carry out its threat to abolish Hong Kong'a legislative assembly on July 1, 1997, the day Beijing resumes sovereignty of this British colony. In a Xinhua News Agency report moni-tored here, a spokesman for the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office said the assembly and other local legislative bodies would be disbanded and then "reorganised" under Chinese rule. The spokesman said that, with the termination of British rule, all laws concerning the terms of office for the three levels of government in the colony would be abolished as they contravened the basic law. The statement was the first official confirmation that China would act on its warning to close the Legislative Council following an

acrimonious row with Britain.

King receives message from Assad, holds talks with Farouk Al Sharaa

Syria to insist on full implementation of U.N. resolutions

AMMAN (J.T.) - His Majesty King Hussein Monday re-ceived a message from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad dealing with Jordanian-Syrian coordination in the Middle East peace process. The message was delivered by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al

In a meeting at the royal palace attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, King Hussein and Mr. Sharaa exchanged views on various regional and international issues and discussed the latest developments in the Middle East peace process. affirming the importance of continued Arab coordination with the aim of regaining Arab rights and achieving a just, comprehensive and lasting

peace in the region," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.
The King and Mr. Sharaa also discussed Jordanian-Syrian relations and means of enhancing them, Petra said.

-The-audience was attended by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, Royal Court Chief Sbarif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's Political Advisor Marwan Al Qasem and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan. On the Syrian side, the meeting was attended by Syrian Charge d'Affaires in Amman Ahmad Al Dabbas. Earlier, Dr. Majali met with

TEL AVIV (AP) - Prime

Minister Yitzhak Rabin's par-

liament won a comfortable vic-

tory on Monday over a motion

of no confidence brought by

opponents of the Israel-

Palestine Liberation Organisa-

tion (PLO) accord, despite a

delay in implementation and

vote in protest over peacemak-

ing with the PLO and attacks

against Israelis by Palestine

Foreign Minister Shimon

Peres said the government

would push ahead with the

peace effort no matter how

week or two, a month or two

months, but we will stand firm

on principles," Mr. Peres said

in the parliament, or Knesset,

prior to departing for Cairo to

lead negotiations with the

Iarael missed a Dec. 13

TEL AVIV (AP) - Two hun-

dred doctors, engineers and

teaebers from the former

Soviet Union marched past

Prime Minister Yitzhak

Rabin's office Monday car-

rying squeegees in protest of

the menial labour many are

Israeli officials say 80 per

cent of the immigrants are em-

ployed. But many sweep

streets, clean floors or guard

buildings, and fewer than half

the professionals who have im-

migrated since 1989 have

"We are sick of being re-

garded as some bothersome

clement. We want things to be

better for everyone," shouted

Nathan Sharansky, a former

Soviet prisoner of conscience

whose Soviet Zionist Forum

Actors put on a skit with a

mock demand for parliament

to pass a law requiring immig-

rants to put in at least a six-

month "scrubbing period,"

sponsored the protest.

found jobs in their fields.

forced to do.

"It will take a day or two, a

The opposition called for the

continued violence.

long it took.

lateral relations and the peace

Mr. Sharaa also had a meeting at the Foreign Ministry with Mr. Hassan on coordinating Jordanian-Syrian stands on the peace process and to discuss means of unifying Arab

Mr. Hassan and Mr. Sharaa also discussed the prospects for convening the joint Higher Jordanian-Syrian Committee to discuss cooperation.

Mr. Sharaa said upon bis departure that Middle East peace talks will resume in Washington if a U.S-Syrian summit meeting in mid-January is successful.

Mr. Sharaa said Syria was not affected by the state of Israeli-Palestinian talks,

"Steps are going to take place next month which will result, if all goes well, in convening a new round of peace negotiations in Washington,' Mr. Sharaa told reporters before returning to Syria after-only his four-hour visit to Am-

"It is very difficult to predict the results of the summit meeting which would be held in Geneva between President Hafez Al Assad and President Bill Clinton," Mr. Sharaa said.

deadline to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank

town of Jericho, principally be-

cause of disagreement over

who will control border cros-

sings with Egypt and Jordan.

parliament was defeated 54 to

44 with two members of the

ultra-religious Shas party ab-

far as the hospital to round up

coalition members. Labour

Party legislator Salah Tarif,

hospitalised for back surgery,

was brought in a wheelchair for

Mr. Rabin commands the

loyalty of 56 legislators and is

guaranteed the support of

another five legislators belong-

ing to Arab parties on peace

issues, allowing him a bare

majority of 6I in a full house.

After the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO accord, the opposition

(Continued on page 5)

since that is what ends up

bappening to many.

Forum figures show that

two-thirds of engineers, 60 per

cent of physicians and more

than 70 per cent of teachers are

not working in their fields. In all, 84,000 such profes-

sionals have immigrated in a

wave of 473,000 newcomers to

Israel from the former Sovier

Union since 1989. More than

half the immigrants arrived be-

fore the end of 1990. The flow

has alowed along with the job

market with only about 61,700

Former Soviets make up

nearly half of Israel's immig-

rant labour force, and activists

contend the demeaning labour

is slowing down the immigrant

flow and demoralising many

situation were better we could

expect much larger numbers of

immigrants, said Yuli

Koshorovsky, vice president of

"I have no doubt that if the

who are already here.

Mr. Sharansky's forum.

expected this year.

Government whips went as

staining.

the vote.

Soviet emigres protest

menial jobs in Israel

The motion in the 120-seat

"But we hope results would be positive and we hope to push the peace process forward

Rabin wins confidence

motion on peace talks

in order to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement in the region," he added.

Mr. Sharaa said Syria's posi-tion in the U.S.-brokered peace talks, which have completed 11 rounds after starting more than two years ago in Madrid, had not changed.

"Syria's stand is very well known. We hope that the requirement for implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 as well as 425 concerning Lebanon would be achieved," he said.

In Damascus, the official press said Monday that Mr. Assad will tell President Clinton next month that Israel must quit all the occupied territories if peace is to be achieved.

The government newspaper Tishrin said the Geneva talks were of "extreme importance" and that the Syrian president would call for a "complete Israeli withdrawal" from the

Golan Heights, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. In a swipe at the Israel-Palestine Libertion Organisation (PLO) deal for limited Palestinian autonomy, it said Syria "has never believed in separate compromises," and bad warned against the dangers they present and gave equal value to all occupied

(Continued on page 5)

urge Egypt

AMMAN (AP) - Human

rights activists Monday called

on Egypt to exert pressure on

Libya to track down a leading

dissident who vanished from a

Cairo botel earlier this month.

lawmakers, unionists and

members of political parties

attended a rally for former

Libyan Foreign Minister Man-

sur Kikhia, who disappeared

Dec. 10 while attending a hu-

man rights conference in the

Libya abducted Mr. Kikhia

and beld the Egyptian govern-ment responsible for finding

Speakers suggested that

"It is imperative for us to

discover Kikhia's whereabouts.

and Egypt is asked to investi-

gate the matter with Libyan authorities," said Amin Shukeir, head of the lordanian

branch of the Cairo-based

Arab Organisation for Human

Rights. Mr. Kikhia, 62, was Libya's

chief delegate to the United

Nations for five years until

quitting in 1980 to protest the

executions of opponents of Li-

byan leader Moammar Qadha-

Tripoli bas denied any in-

volvement and claims the U.S.

Central Intelligence Agency

U.S. President Bill Clinton

bas written to Egypt to express

his concern about the dis-

appearance of Mr. Kikhia,

whose wife and children are

U.S. citizens. Mr. Kikhia re-

portedly intended to move to

Monday's indoor rally was

attended by prominent Jorda-

nian personalities, including

Parliament Speaker Taher

Leila Sharaf, a member of

the Senate, said that Mr.

Kikhia's disappearance was a

"serious violation of human

rights and threatens the free-

dom of expression for 250 mil-

lion people in the Arab

the United States.

Masri.

was behind the kidnapping.

Egyptian capital.

More than 100 Jordanian

Activists

to locate

Kikhia



His Majesty King Hussein Monday holds talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Faronk Al Sharaa

Crown Prince Hassan (Petra photo)

Peres, Abbas meet in Cairo; no sign of a breakthrough

CAIRO (Agencies) - Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel reopened peace talks Monday, with both sides led by major figures in the secret meetings earlier this year that made the first breakthrough between the decadesold enemies

Palestinian and Israeli officials expressed hope that this round would reach agreement for Israel's army to begin pulling out of the Gaza Strip and Jericho, two weeks after a deadline for starting the with-

drawal. Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mousa met separately Shimon Peres and Palestinian negotiator Mahmoud Abbas before the two were joined by other delegates for informal

Their meeting lasted just over one hour and was followed by a dinner hosted by Mr. Musa.

Neither Mr. Peres nor Mr. Abbas would give details. "There is nothing yet," Mr.

Abbas said. Palestician negotiator Nabil Shaath told reporters that Monday's talks were "preparations for the official meetings

tomorrow.' Mr. Musa, who met Sunday with PLO leader Yasser Arafat, said he was bopeful the two sides could reach agreement. "The gaps are not that Shimon Peres

far, and the agreement is possible," he said

But Mr. Peres, who is heading the Israeli delegation to the talks here, said before arrival that he was bringing no new offers. His comment came amid reports the two sides still differ on the key issue of how much land Israel will cede

around Jericho. Mr. Peres told reporters in Cairo that he wanted to get beyond vociferous arguments over issues like Jericho and push for establishing Palestinian autonomy under the Israeli-PLO accord signed in

September. The purpose is to conduct very serious negotiations, re-



Mahmond Abbas

membering there are two sides to the story," Mr. Peres said. We're not ignoring that, and wishing the Palestinians real success.

Mr. Peres said Israel wanted to give the Palestinians "the most we can in the way of dignity... so that they will be able to run their own life."

But in an interview published Monday in the Israeli daily Yediot Ahronot, he warned that Mr. Arafat was seeking concessions that Isreal was not prepared to give." "I very much hope that Arafat comes down from that tree he's climbed because 1 am not

(Continued on page 5)

Yemeni envoy briefs King on efforts to end crisis

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday received at the Royal Coun in the presence of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister Mujahed Abu Shawareh who conveyed to the King a verbal message from the Yemeni leadership dealing with bilateral relations and the political situation in Yemen.

Mr. Abu Shawareb also conveyed to the King the greetings of Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beedh and their appreciation of the King's efforts to end a political crisis in Yemen. The Yemeni official also briefed King Hussein on the national dialogue and consultations taking place to end the crisis.

The King voiced satisfaction over the situation in Yemen and stressed Jordan's support for the Yemeni leadership and people.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker. the King's Political Advisor Marwan Al Qasem, the King's

Advisor Khaled Al Karaki and the Yemeni ambassador in In Sanaa, the official news agency SABA quoted Mr. Beedh as saying he would meet President Salch if the latter

acted on 18 political demands. SABA quoted Mr. Beedh as telling a group of religious scholars late Sunday that he would accept their proposal for a meeting with Mr. Saleh if his condition was met (see page 2). Mr. Saleh, who accepted the idea on Saturday, led North

Yemen and Mr. Beedh led South Yemen before the two. merged in 1990. The president said recently

he agreed to the 18 demands. made by Mr. Beedh's Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) over two. months ago in a quarrel over the direction the new Yemen is

UNIFIL and Oslo protest Israeli killing of Norwegian

NAQOURA, Lebanon (Agencies) - The United Nations and Norway protested to Israel Monday over the killing of a Norwegian U.N. peacekeeper by Israeli tankfire in southern

A spokesman for the United Nations Interim Force In Lebanon (UNIFIL) said the force delivered a strong protest over Sunday's killing to an Israeli liaison officer in a meeting on the Lebanese-Israeli

border. "The Israeli officer expressed his regret and explained that the incident was the result of unauthorised firing" by a tank commander in the eastern sector of Israel's self-declared "security zone." Timur Goksel

The Norwegian foreign ministry also lodged an official protest, while Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin contacted Oslo to convey his regrets.

Another Norwegian soldier was wounded in the incident. He was taken to hospital in the northern Israeli town of Haifa, where his condition was reported to be "serious, but not life-threatening."

Norway's Deputy Foreign Minister Jan Egeland said the peacekeepers were on patrol when the tank opened fire. 'For us this is quite incomprehensible. We deeply regret a Norwegian life has been lost." he said.

Goksel said the tank was in the Blat region where Norwegian peacekeepers are deployed. Military sources in Israel said a patrol shelled the region after spotting suspicious figures, whom they mistook for anti-Israeli guerrillas. Before the killing, UNIFIL

had already protested to Israeli forces on Sunday over the careless firing onto an Irish position in the central sector of the security zone," the spokesman added. A total of 195 UNIFIL sol-

diers have been killed in South Lebanon, including 20 Norwegian troops, since the 5.200strong peacekeeping force was deployed in South Lebanon in

In a separate incident, a 65-year-old woman was killed by Israeli shelling on Braachit village in the south Monday. security sources said.

Lebanon security sources inside the zone said eight UNI-FIL soldiers were in the patrol on the outskirts of Blat, which is inside the zone.

They said an Israeli tank in Aishiyeh, some three kilometres to the east, fired several rounds at the patrol.

UNIFIL soldiers routinely patrol Blat but they rarely venture to its outskirts and usually inform the Israeli forces when they plan such patrols. the Lebanese sources said. This was denied by Mr.

Goksel, however. He said peacekeepers went on the same patrol almost every Mr. Goksel said U.N.

peacekeepers found traces of a tank shell loaded with steel

Norwegian peacekeepers went on alert in the area.

Arafat visits Yemen as Husseini holds Riyadh talks

SANAA (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat arrived Monday to brief Yemen's leadership on the peace talks that his aides were to resume with the Israelis in Egypt later

Yemen is a close supporter of the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and still shelters some 2,000 of the PLO fighters that Mr. Arafat wants to move as policemen to Jerieho and Gaza.

In arrival statements. Mr. Arafat, who came from Cairo where he held advance talks Sunday with the Egyptian hosts, said the "most important obstacle" sprang from Israel's interpretation of the Sept. 13 declaration of principles on Palestinian self-rule.

He listed the problems as the size of the Jericho area, continue over border erossing and the issue of East Jerusalem. Mr. Arafat was also ex-

pected to pursue his efforts to arrange a reconciliation meeting between Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his vice president, Ali Salem Al beedh.

Mr. Beedh has kept away from the capital Sanaa since August because of differences over the pace of integration since he led his former South Yemen into merger with Mr. Saleh's North Yemen three years ago. (See page 2)

In neighbouring Saudi Arabia, whose leaders still distance themselves from Mr. Arafat, prominent Palestinian figure Faisal Husseini held talks on financial aid for the Palestinians in the West Bank. Mr. Husseini met with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal.

A diplomatie source said the talks concentrated on "means of aiding the inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories who are the real strugglers" against the Israeli occupation.

The source, who spoke on condition he not be named, said Mr. Husseini was carrying a study on those needs. There was no elaboration.

The oil-rich Kingdom is the main benefactor of the Palestinians but has been channelling multimillion-dollar donations and assistance directly to the Palestinians after it turned its back on the PLO leadership when Mr. Arafat sided with Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

The kingdom, however, has pledged \$100 million to the international "funds amassed for the Palestinian entity in Gaza and Jericho,

Mr. Husseini arrived in Riyadh Sunday on his first visit to Saudi Arabia since the 1991 Gulf war.

In August, Mr. Husseini met Prince Faisal in Cairo to discuss the Saudi financial contribution to Palestinian auton-

Later Monday, Mr. Arafat met President Saleh to discuss problems delaying the implementation of Palestinian autonomy.
Mr. Saleh reiterated his

country's support for the "cause of the Palestinian people," the official news agency SABA reported.

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Islamist hardliners get ahead in Kuwait

By William Maclean Reuter

KUWAIT — Kuwait's Islamic hardliners, brushing off liberal protests, are steadily expanding a campaign to turn the bil-producing emirate into a fully Islamic society.

Their softly-softly approach has been paying off in growing parliamentary support and extensive coverage of their demands and arguments in newspapers and magazines.

Kuwait's brand of Islamists are a far cry from the firebrand variety across the Gulf waters m. Iran or their militant coreligionists in Algeria.

Islamic leaders said in interviews they bad no wish to overthrow the existing order, only to make it more Islamic.

Many of us were educated in the West and we want to continue to benefit from Westem science and technology. We know the West helped us a lot in liberating our country (from Iraqi occupation)," Par-liament Member Ahmad Baqer told Reuters.

"But we are Muslims and we need to say that out loud." 'Few go so far as Muslim cleric Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Hoda, who says low oil prices and chronic bad debt problems are divine punishment for Kuwait's failure to implement fuli Islamic law.

But all say a post-Gulf war apsurge in crime and juvenile delinquency will best be cured by stricter adherence to Islam. Mr. Bager is a member of the Salaf group — its name means a return to the path of

the forefathers - which emerged in the 1970s when many Arabs and Muslims turned to rebgion after the shattering Arab defeat by Israel in the 1967 war. Since the Gulf crisis Islam-

ists have built on their active role during Iraq's occupation. Mosques were centres of civilian resistance and Islamists helped distribute food and

Activists say this helped counter the influence of Western culture over Kuwaitis impressed with the role the West played in liberating their coun-Last month the government

said it was studying ways to jam signals from non-Arab foreign satellite television programmes offensive 10 Kuwaitis. Compared to many Gulf

states Knwait is a pluralist, open society with a range of political beliefs and social prac-

unrelated rarely mix and many forms of entertainment are banned. Alcohol, even nonalcoholie beer, is forbidden. Discotheques, once tolerated. elosed in the 1980s.

But a lively parliamentary tradition and an outspoken press fuel a busy intellectual life. Substantial numbers of women wear Western dress and work in business, government and even the army. countering the stereotype of the protected Muslim wife.

There has been no proposal to restrict the practice of other faiths. Freedom of religion is enshrined in the constitution.

However. 39 of parliament's 50 elected deputies have signed a motion advocating a change in the constitution to make Islam the sole source of law. No date has been set for de-

Article two of the constitution says Islam is "a main" — thus not the only — source of legislation. Any constitutional change is subject to the emir's approval.

Liberals accuse the Islamists of having no clear idea of the political, economic and legal consequences of changing arti-cle two and say it would divert attention from more pressing issues such as economic reconstruction following the Iraqi occupation.

"Nothing dramatic will hap-pen. An Islamic society must be implemented here step by countered Islamist MP Khaled Al Adwa, commenting. on the results of changing arti-

"A new article two will have value as a statement," echoed Mr. Bager. "But in fact it will change almost nothing."

Liberals also dislike a sep rate plan by five Islamist MPs for creation of an authority to promote good and prohibit

They see the proposal, despite Islamist denials, as a first step that would encourage fundamentalists to police residents' daily behaviour as is done in Saudi Arabia and Iran. Asked if he saw Kuwait adopting the even stricter social norms of neighbour Saudi

Arabia, Mr. Adwa said: "We cannot make a comparison with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, Saudi Arabia (birthplace of Islam) has a unique experience in the Islamic field which Kuwait accepts and re-

"We are going to follow unique procedures so that Kuwaitis will not feel perse-



CONFRONTATION: Jewish settlers belonging to the extremist Kach party shout at peace activist Abbie Nathan as he tried to persuade them against entering Gaza City on Sunday. The

Kach activists were planning to enter Gaza with their guns to challenge Palestinians, but Israeli soldiers prevented them from entering (AFP

S. Arabia moves towards | Kuwait eyes reform with new council this political liberalisation."

the diplomat said.

Shura session.

Diplomats expected that the

egional assemblies, which like

the Shura do not include senior

members of the royal family.

would hold their first meetings

after the king opened the first

They said the men named to

the Shura council and the

assemblies represented the

different sectors of the Saudi

society and the appointments

were well received by the

people.

The Shura, which will meet

in public, includes five mem-

bers of the religious establish-

ment. 30 holders of doctorates.

members of large tribes, repre-

sentatives from the Muslim

Shiite minority, active and re-

tired military officers and

Former Justice Minister

Sheikh Mohammad Ben Ibra-

him Ben Jubeir will chair the

council, whose members will

receive a basic monthly salary

Decrees setting up the coun-

cil, which has a four-year term,

said no government depart-

ment had authority gver it and

stressed that members were

not allowed "to take any pap-

ers. systems or documents re-

lated to the council's work

Diplomats said the deploy-

ment of hundreds of thousands

of U.S. and other non-Muslim

soldiers in the conservative

kingdom, home to Islam's

holiest shrines, during the

1990-91 Gulf crisis ended Saudi

Arabia's isolation and acceler-

ated reforms which were first

promised 21 years ago.

f about \$5,300.

outside the council.'

senior government officials.

By Ashraf Fouad Reuter .

DUBAI - King Fahd is due to convene Saudi Arabia's appointed Shura (consultative) council this week in the kingdom's first major step towards political reform.

Official sources and Western diplomats in Rivadh said the king was expected to hold the first session of the 60-member body, the country's first representative assembly in almost 60 years, within the next few

Senior members of the Saudi royal family traditionally control the kingdom's administration and its vast oil wealth. huge foreign assets and milit-ary and internal security

Although rules governing the new council fall short of Western concepts of democracy, diplomats in Riyadb said it represented a big move to-wards long-promised changes.

"It is an important first step and the thing to do is to focus on this progressive move, one Western diplomat told Reuters by Ielephone from Riyadh. "Every country has its own version of democracy and no one has the 'perfect' formula."

King Fahd appointed the

Shura council in August. A month later he named members of regional assemblies in a further sign that ordinary. Saudis will for the first time have a say in running their country's affairs.

"We (Riyadh's Western allies) look favourably on this council and are in favour of

Russian weapons

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Kuwait is considering buying weapons from Russia, the emirate's defence minister says. Russia and Kuwait signed a

defence pact in November aimed at improving Kuwait's defences. The accord provides for possible arms sales, joint exercises and military training.

"Kuwait is regarding those offers with interest after signing the security agreement between the two countries." Al Anbaa Arabic newspaper on Monday quoted Defence Minister Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah as saving. Sheikh Ali said a Russian

delegation was expected to visit Kuwait soon to discuss the offers which involve weapons for Kuwait's infantry, navy and air forces. Kuwait's parliament in Au-

gust voted to reject a recommendation from its financial committee to approve a 1992 decree law providing for 3.5 billion dinars (\$11.5 billion) in extraordinary military, spend-

ing until 2004. Sheikh Ali said that of the total amount, up to 1.2 billion dinars (\$3.9 billion) had either been spent or committed. Much of the spending has

been incurred in deals concluded under a defence pact signed with the United States shortly after Kuwait's liberation from Iraqi occupation in

Aerospatiale to invest \$5m

The French company Aerospatiale has decided to invest some \$5 million in Kuwait as part of an arms contract it signed with the authorities here, an Aerospatiale representative said.

Jean-Dominique Ribault, quoted by Kuwaiti newspaper Sunday, said the sum represented 30 per cent of the 100million-franc (\$17-million)

The Kuwaiti government, like other Gulf Arab states. has established an "offset" programme for ploughing back into the emirate part of the profits of military contracts signed with foreign companies.

The investment programme, the first of its kind in Kuwait. covers economic assistance, mainly in the medical field, Mr. Ribault said.

Aerospatiale is a major military supplier of the Kuwaiti armed forces, which have already bought Gazelle. Puma and Super Puma belicopters from the company. Mr. Ribault said new deals

were being worked out with Kuwait, but gave no further

Beedh agrees to meet Saleh to resolve political crisis

ADEN, Yemen (Agencies) — Yemeni Vice President Ali Salem Al Beedh has agreed to meet the country's head of state. Ali Abdullah Saleb, to resolve a crisis over demands for decentralisation of the recently united country.

After a meeting Sunday with a religious delegation attempting to mediate between the two men, Mr. Beedh said he was ready for a meeting if the president agreed to demands to give greater autonomy to the two halves of the country.

Mr. Saleh offered Saturday to meet Mr. Beedh on Jan. 9 after a meeting with Muslim theology doctors who proposed a mosque in Al Jand, 130 kilometres south of Sanaa, as the venue. The vice president, from the

former South Yemen, has broken links with Mr. Saleh, of the former North Yemen, since August. The country was

united in May 1990.

Mr. Beedh's Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) is also demanding the arrest and trial of those responsible for acts of political violence in the country over the last few years as well as the closure of urban military camps.

President Saleh said in com-

ments published Sunday that he bad assurances the United States was committed to the Mr. Saleh told the Arabic

daily Al Dustour of Jordan he had met with American envoys several times and got the message that Washington was "committed to Yemeni unity and wants a peaceful solution to the crisis.



Ali Salem Al Beedh

The newspaper quoted Mr. Saleb as voicing hope his rift with Mr. Beech could be resolved soon.

"We are trying our best, with all political forces and partners, to end the erisis," be told Al Dustour. "We bope that the new year

will be a year of security and that we could eliminate the last traces of a divided Yemen, said Mr. Saleh. Dispute with S. Arabia

Mr. Saleh also said Yemen plans to speed up efforts to resolve a border dispute with Saudi Arabia.

Today the political leadership took a decision to direct the government to act speedily to resolve the border issue in the framework that guarantees the rights of the two brotherly neighbours," Mr. Saleh said. The decision was taken ... and I asked for speeding up



Ali Abduliah Saleh

resolving the border issue with the Saudi neighbour," he

Mr. Saleh said a decision had been taken to upgrade to ministerial level talks with the Saudis to resolve the dispute over the demarcation of Yemen's northern border. Until now technical committees have tackled the issue.

There is a large stretch of undemarcated desert border between Yemen and Saudi Arabia and an agreement over the three disputed areas of Najran, Jizan and Azir, which Yemen claims, expired last year and has not been renewed.

Yemen's ties with its former Arab Gulf donors worsened after it was seen as backing Iraq in the 1990-91 Gulf crisis. Around a million Yemenis were expelled from Saudi Ara-

Fighting, farming as fickle as the weather in Somalia The people fled in three

By Mark Fritz The Associated Press

SARMANDER - The world gave Sarmander farm tools, sorghum seeds, expert advice and an army to keep the peace, but that wasn't enough. Nobody gave it rain, so the harvest failed and Sarmander is hungry again. Nearby Germegel had a

decent harvest. The sorghum vas packed into underground leaders to last through the dry season. But a neighbouring clan looted the village two weeks ago, emptying the earthen cellars of four months of

Germegel is now a collection of smashed thatched huts shaded by trees on a gentle hill overlooking a rare thing in this part of Somalia: A reservoir. The people bave fled to other towns, including Sarmander, which is flat, parched and increasingly overcrowded.

Both villages are in Somalia's sorghum basket, the heartland of the staple grain that often is ground and mixed with water to form a paste called sor.

The villages are within 60 kilometres of Baidoa, the resuscitated urban centre the United Nations likes to show as a symbol of its effort to end starvation in Somalia and restore a semblance of law and order. Sarmander and Germegel,

more typical of this country of itinerant farmers, are among the scores of villages around Baidoa that have failed to get back on their feet despite an unprecedented relief effort. Humanitarian groups say it

distributions of free food. suspended in July, so farm families can survive until the next rainy season in April.

But Sarmander, Germegel and other flyspeck villages bave two things no one can ehange: The dry, caramel coloured soil that yields enough food only when the rains come twice yearly, and the complex interclan relationships that are as unpredictable as the weather.

Somalia has two growing seasons: The gu, which begins with the rains in April and ends with an August harvest, and the deyr, running from September to late December.

Both were catastrophes in Sarmander, which means "long tree." People are eating coble leaves - weeds, actually - and chopping down those long trees so they can sell wood for food in bustling Baidoa. The failed harvest was a

crushing disappointment to Farey Madey, who was born here 36 years ago.

Mrs. Madey, her husband and seven children were farming their plot when the civil war against dictator Mohammad Siad Barre spilled into the village.

After being driven from Mogadishu, the capital, Mr. Siad Barre set up headquarters in Baidoa. His soldiers raided nearby villages, looting food stores and shooting the occupants.

. Village chief Haji Hussein Adam said 330 homes were burned down. Sarmander once had 5,000 families, he said; now there are fewer than 1,500.

migrations and many died of starvation en route, including Mrs. Madey's husband and three of her children. She made it to Wagite 100 kilometres away, where himanitarian agencies hid set up a feeding centre. She returned for the

second growing season four months ago. The Irish aid group Concern gave her tools, seeds, and advice,

"I planted, but nothing grew," she said.

"All the farms are like this," said Mohammad Osman Bul Bul, a Somali agronomist for Concern. "People t are eating leaves now."

Mr. Bul Bul tries to persuade Somalis to plant little gardens of carrots, cabbages and peppers to get through bad sorghum harvests. He teaches them to plant their seeds in rows rather than haphazardly, so crops can be tended more efficiently and produce greater yields.

He wants farmers to turn the soil with plows pulled by livestock, rather than by hand, and to plow deeply so the overused topsoil will be enriched.

But in Sarmander, he is up against nine generations of farming custom.

"They only believe what they learned from their grandfathers," Mr. Bui Bui

Sarmander is now in the early days of a dry season that will last until April. The major bumanitarian

groups in the Baidoa sorghum region held an emergency meeting in mid-December to discuss whether to resume giving food to places like Sarmander.

Violence cost Egypt \$1.3b in revenue launched its campaign in 1992 political crimes in Egypt in any CAIRO (Agencies) — Militant. the highest since militants be-

violence cost Egypt almost \$1.3 billion in lost revenue from tourism this year, Tourism Minister Mamdouh Al Baltagui said Sunday. Revenue from one of

Egypt's biggest foreign currency earners dropped 42.5 per cent from the \$3 billion received in 1992, Mr. Baltagui told parliament. He also said that 21.9 per cont fewer tourists visited

Egypt between January and

October 1993, compared to the

same period last year, while the number of hotel bookings dropped 31.7 per cent. Seven foreign tourists have died in Egypt since militants stepped up a violent campaign ngainst President Hosni Mubarak's secular government

In 1997 On Sunday, militants shot dead four policemen in southern Egypt, bringing Decem-ber's police death toll to 18gan fighting to overthrow the state in 1992.

Gunmen ambushed and killed the policemen as they were on their way to work in Al Qusiya, a militant stronghold 300 kilometres south of Cairo. security sources said. A civilian also died in the shooting.

The militant movement Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group) has claimed responsibility for two of December's police deaths and is believed to be behind the others, most of them involving low-ranking conscripts easily targetted on

their way to or from work. A police brigadier, captain and lieutenant and two conscripts were killed last Sunday in the worst shootout with militants in the southern province of Assiyut since March. Three militants died on that day.

All but two of the policemen killed this month have fallen in Assiyut, where the Gamaa

De la Salle Church Tcl. 661757 Terrasancta Church Tcl: 622366 Church of the Assumctation 1 623541.

to overthrow the government and establish a strict Islamic state by targetting security personnel, Christians and foreign tourists.

The attacks on tourists have -subsided, having devastated the Egyptian tourist industry. but those on policemen continue to rise. December has been a bloody

month for militants too, 15 of whom" died - but of those. nine were banged after milit-ary trials. Only six died in shootouts with police. Most of the nine, who were

sentenced to death in two separate military trials in October for murder and conspiracy to overthrow the government, were members of Jihad (holy struggle), the other main militant movement in Egypt.

Their executions bring the number of militants executed this year to 29, the highest number sent to their deaths for

year this century. Human rights groups have

condemned the hangings as arbitrary and summary, and say they only serve to widen the circle of violence currently gripping Egypt.
The Egyptian Organisation

for Human Rights on Sunday condemned militants groups, which it said were responsible for most deaths in Egypt this

In a statement, the group also decried the "acts of illegal violence practiced by the state," including recurring detentions, torture, military trials and mass death sentences. "These do not contribute 10

ending violent acts or terrorism, in as much as they cause more harm to the situation of human rights in our countrywhich has led to this vicious circle of violence and counterviolence." the statement

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDER

PROGRAMME TWO 17:30 Le Mos 17:30 18:38 .. Beaumanois 19:00 19:15 . News in Arabic Night Court "Act Of Will" 20:30 21:19 film: "The Wilderness Family"

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PRAYER TIMES

CHURCHES ph Church Tel 624590. Anglican Church Tel. 639851, Tel. 628543. St. Ephratan Church Tel. 771751. Automa 652526. Charch Tel. Lutheran Church Tel: Evangelica 824328. m Tel. 684195 rch of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tcl. 654932 reh of Nazarene Tcl.675691. WEATHER litetin supplied by the Department of There will be a rise . in temperature with clouds appearing at low altitudes. Winds will be variable occasionally becoming westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moder-

Min./Max. temp. 8/21

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 20, Aquha 24, Humidity readings: Amman 38 per cent. Aquha 37 per

NIGHT DUTY AMMAN: Dr. Bassim Qaddumi Dr. Fakhri Taych Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 185880 846070 Dr. Yousel'Al Fagin 661912 Firas pharmacy ... Ferdows pharmacy Al Asema pharmacy Nairoukh pharmacy . 637055 Al Salam pharmacy Yacoub pharmacy 636730 637660 623672 Dr. Mohammad At Zu bi

USEFUL TELEPHONE

NUMBERS

ZARQA: **EMERGENCIES** Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Immediate Rescue..... Civil Defence Emergency 199 Rescue Police 192, 621111, 63777 89122 Highway Police Public Security Department
Hotel Complaints
Price Complaints
Water and Sewerage 615800 897467 Amman Municipality 787111 (directory assistance)
Overseas Calls Central Amman Telephone 62310t Jordan Television . Radio Jordan Water Authority

Jordan Electricity Authority ... 815615 Electric Power 636381 HOSPITALS AMMAN:

Shmcisani Hospital University Hospital .. 669131 .. 845845 667227/9 Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich 775111/26 Army, Marka Queen Alia Hospital Amal Hospital Al Hikma Modern Hospital

Ibn At Natces Hospital ... Princess Haya Hospital(03)314111 FOR THE TRAVELLER **QUEEN ALIA**

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Oueen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5. where it should always be verified.

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

.... Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ) Damascus (RJ)
Dhahran (RJ)
Muscat, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 10:20 London (RJ) ... Cario (RJ) Other Flights (Terminal 2)

16:45

91:15

Vicnna (OS)
Rome (AZ)
Paris. Beirui (AF)
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DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

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42.75	Amsterdam, New York [RJ)
1:00	Vicana, Frankfurt (RJ)
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Other Flights (Terminal

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02: 15	Amsterdam (KI)
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HUAZ RAILWAY TRAIR tax 8:00 a.m. every Mo Art. Damaseus 5:00 p.m. every Monday Dep. Damaseus 7:30 a.m. every Sanday

MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in life per kg.

90 / 50 240/160 Carrol Caulifawer Clementine Cucumbers (large) Cucumbers (small) 290 t 100 350 / 300 180 / 100 Grape Fruit 170/17 700/506 380/ 100 400 / 300 Orange Onion (dry) ... Onion (green) Pepper (but) . 290 / 200 290 / 200 250 | 59 120 | 10 200 / 159

Crown Prince urges measures to ensure safety for people, property

AMMAN (Petra) - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday underlined the importance of the coming conference on public safety which will discuss prospects for working out a comprehensive programme to ensure safety of

Jordanians and their property. Success of such a conference would require good preparation, said the Prince during a visit to the Civil Defence Department (CDD) where he met with the CDD Director Afif Al Ghool, seoior officers as well as CDD officers who took part in extinguishing the recent fire at the Safeway stores in Amman. The Crown Prince said it is boped that the coming cor.ference would result in a comprehensive programme related to public safety which would enable better handling of

As Jordan seeks to become an industrial centre at the regional level, the Prince said, serious efforts should be exerted to ensure industrial safe-

In reviewing the CDD needs, the Crown Prince said that compared to the needs of the civil defence in other countries, there must be a way to ensure sufficient fuods, equipment and its maintenance and therefore companies and industries ought to take the initiative to meet the CDD re-

He also called on the CDD to open centres in various parts of the Kingdom and said it was important for the department to establish close cooperation with various businesses in Jor-

Discussion during the Prince's visit focused on the way the civil defence officers performed during the fire at Safeway. The fire bas resulted in 264 people being treated in

hospitals due to suffocation. Also Monday, the Crown Prince visited the Army Headquarters where he discussed with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Abdol Hafez Marai and his assistants issues of importance to the Armed

Special attention focused on the contribution of the Armed Forces towards improving the national economy.

Economic restructuring aims at attaining a 6 per cent growth rate

AMMAN (Petra) — Finance Minister Sami Gammoh said Monday that the economic restructuring programme agreed upon with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was aimed at achieving an anoual growth at the rate of six per cent in the first year of an eight-year period euvisaged by

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Table 1

Addressing a meeting by a number of ministers and parbament members, Mr. Gammoh said that the programme also aims at reducing the volume of aid, gradually reducing the margin of deficit in the fiscal budget and achieving a 23 per cent increase of the domestic product.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Abdol Salam Majali, Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz, Dr. Rima Khalaf the Minister of Industry and Trade and the Central Bank of Jordan CBJ Governor Mohammad Al. Nabulsi as well as members of the lower House of Parliament and representatives of the private sectors.

The meeting was chaired by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali.

In reviewing the benefits Jordan is bound to achieve by the end of the programme, in 1997, the minister said that the programme will enable the Kingdom to reschedule its external debts at the Paris and the London clubs which, upon recommendation from the World Bank and the (IMF),

will allow Jordan to obtain additional loans.

The minister noted that failure to implement the programme would result in negative consequences for the national economy, like the prospects to obtain further loans and the rescheduling loans, which would also lead to Jordan's inability to get sufficient foreign currency to pay for imports.

The minister said that commitment to the implementation of the programme would require the gradual repayment of the foreign debts, ending them by the end of 1997.

CBJ Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi stressed the importaoce of continued exchange of views among the concerned parties, including the Parliament, over the sales tax for the sake of achieving consensus on this question and other problems that impede the attainment of a stronger economy.

He noted that one of the issues facing the economy is the diminished amounts of money, transfers from the expatriates living and working in the Gulf, which has acted negatively on the Jordanian

Noting that Jordan attained very good results by im-. plementing the economic reform programme in the first year, the CBJ governor said the programme was slowed down by the 1990 Gulf crisis, but better results were ex-

Referring to this year's gains, the CBJ governor said that due to strict adherence to the agreement, Jordan achieved an 11.6 per cent

The sales tax, said Dr. Nabulsi, was bound to create additional funds to cover the expansion in ensuring sufficient funds to cover the increase in public expenditure, to reduce the margin of deficit and make the country achieve sufficiency

Also addressing the meeting was Dr. Rima Khalaf Minister of Industry and Trade, who said that an increase in the money invested in Jordan is bound to increase the level of

She said that the government is currently opening the door wide before investors by providing incentives, simplying formalites for investors and providiog exemptions from the mcome tax to encourage in-

Parliament Speaker Taher Al Masri, who attended the meeting, demanded more meetings to give sufficient time for the legislators to fully real-ise the benefits of the economie programme for Jordan. 🗆

Mohammad Daudieh, deputy from Tafileb, criticised the application of the sales as the present different circumstances and increase proverty.

He said that the sales tax would widen the gap between the rich and the poor.

Decentralisation is important for development

MAEEN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Ahmad Al Agaileb Monday underlined the importance of local administrations in the develop-

ment process. ... In an opening address at a . seminar on local administration in Amman, Balqa and Zarqa held at Ashtar Hotel in Macen, Mr. Aqaileb said it was difficult to achieve a comprehensive development without giving local administrations a key role and stressed that local administrations were the product of a decentralisation

He referred to the heavy

burdens shouldered by heads of local administrations, saying mayors are always required to strike a balance demands and available resources

Another address was delivered by Madaba District Governor Hisham Al Waked who stressed the importance of such seminars and emphasised their role providing mayors with information on developing and improving the performance of

Mr. Waked criticised the current law on mooicipalities and said it needs to be updated the conform with the requirements of the present time..

Director of the Institute of Publie Administration's Studies and Consultations Department Awni Al Halasa said, in bis address that the seminar was the fruit of cooperation between the institute, the ministry and the Cities and

Villages Development Bank. The institute, Dr. Halasa said, has planned to hold several seminars for monicipal councils in 1994. These seminars will focus on new administrative concepts, he explained.

The two-day seminar aims at acquaioting the participants with basic information on the role of the municipal councils in the development process.

Government sets up committee to study private sector demands regarding sales tax

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - The government Monday set up a com-mittee to study specific de-mands of the business community related to the planned introduction of a sales tax to replace the consumption tax in view of the opposition to the levy expressed by the private sector.

The decision was taken by the Economic Consultative Committee during a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali following a briefing by Finance Minister Sami Gammoh on his contacts with the business community.

The new panel will include representatives of the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Industry and Commerce and the general manager of the Association of Banks in Jordan, Dr. Abdullah Malki, representing the services sector.

In essence, the committee will not be looking into the pros and cons of introducing the tax since it is inevitable under the terms of the economic restructuring programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

In fact, officials point out, Iordan has already missed several deadlines to introduce the sales tax and there cannot be any further delay since the IMF has set a final deadline of February 1994 for the levy to go into effect.

They said that there has been enough debate on the subject and any going back to discussing the advantages and disadvantages of the sales tax would only lead to a protracted process while there be any escape from cannot introducing the law as stipu-lated by the IMF.

In order to cut down the process, the Economic Consultative Committee decided Monday that the newly set up panel would only study certain specific demands from the private sector.

The first demand is that the sales tax be charged on imports on the actual landed cost without including the customs duties. This demand came from importers.

The second demand, commou both to the importers and the industrial sector, is that the second stage of the tax — covering the services sector and an eventual introduction of a value added tax be implemented under a separate law rather than the present draft automatically clearing the way under a decision by the government.

Another demand is that the government should not have a free hand in determining the rate of the sales tax. In its present form, the draft law empowers the govern-

ment to increase or decrease

the rate at its discretion. Mr. Gammoh undertook during Monday's meeting that a ceiling of 20 per cent would be as the bighest rate for the levy. This rate is expected to be applicable to goods classified as luxury

Mr. Gammoh briefed the Economic Consultative Committee on the outcome of a meeting he held with businessmen at the Chamber of Industry last week where the proposed tax came under heavy criticism.

Mr. Gammoh said the sales

tax would not lead to any rise in prices during the first year since it would only be replacing a consumption tax which was already in force since

He also explained that the rates of customs duties and income tax would be brought down simultaneous with the introduction of the sales tax. and as such the levy should go into force immediately to make up for the shortfalls in customs and income tax re-

from the sales tax would be unprocessed agricultural produce and natural resources and live stock, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, re-

ported Officials have said that basic food items, educational material and medicines would also be exempt from

According to the minister, the sales tax is part of a much needed reform in Jordan's overall taxation system and is not different from similar levies in force in more than 85 countries.

The sales tax was also one of the themes that were deali with during a meeting later on Monday where Mr. Gam-moh. Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf and Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saed Al Nabulsi briefed members of the Lower House of Parliament on the general budget for 1994 and the overall economic and monetary situation and policies of the government.

While Mr. Gammoh and Dr. Nabulsi presented an overview of the objectives of the present economic policies and the programme pre-scribed by the IMF, Dr. Khalaf talked about Jordan's application to join the General

Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Dr. Khalaf said that applying to join GATT did not mean that Jordan would automatically become a member of the agreement.

On the one hand, she said, while other governments would reduce or eliminate customs duties and remove other trade barriers, if any against Jordanian products. the Kingdom was duty-bound to offer similar treatment to products coming in from other countries.

She said this was an area where Jordan intended to negotiate with GATT members with a view to ensuring protection for Jordanian industries wherever possible.

It cannot be ruled out that Jordan could not reach acceptable agreements with other GATT members, Dr. Khalaf said. But, in general, she said Jordan would like to join GATT and seek agreements favourable to the

Economic experts note that Israel, a long-term mem-ber of GATT, had managed, to secure many agreements' that clearly protect its industry and there is no reason. why Jordan should not reach similar accords with GATT

Imports via Aqaba will not be affected—Iraqi officials

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Iraq on Monday assured Jordan that the reopening of the port of Umm Qasr in the Gulf would not affect the flow of Iraqbound cargo through Aqaba, Jordanian officials and Iraqi

They said the assurance was given by Iraqi Transport Ministry Under-Secretary Khaled Samarai during a meeting with Transport Minister Adeeb Halasa.

"Mr. Samarai told the Jordanian officials that the reopening of Umm Qasr would not have any impact on the flow of Iraq-bound goods coming through Aqaba," said an Iraqi source, whose account was confirmed by Jordanian officials.

"It is a political decision to continue to use Agaba for the bulk of Iraqi imports," added

the source. The Iraqi official also noted that although Umm Qasr was reopened early last month after the port and aceess waterways were cleaned of war debris, only two vessels bad called at the port since then and this rate of port calls was expected to

continue for "some time." The reopening of the Gulf port has raised serious concerns among the Jordanian port and transport sector, which fears that it would further lower the already depressed Iraqi imports through

The flow of Iraq-bound

goods through Aqaba has steadily declined since mid-1992 as the international enforcers of the sanctions tightened their inspection procedures of ships passing through the Red Sea towards

The inspection procedores led to costly delays for not only Iraqi importers but also Jordanians who found their actual landing costs of goods going up steadily.

After intense Jordanian lobbying in Washington and elsewhere, the U.S. has agreed to seriously consider measures that would alleviate the effects on the inspection procedures on Jordan-bound

fromically, as one sbipping agent noted, "what is the use to us Jordanians of easing the measures now that Iraqbound cargo could be heading for Umm Qasr rather, than Agaba?"

The one element that would ensure a minimum flow of Iraq-bound cargo through the Red Sea port is the fact that Umm Qasr does not bave the facilities to handle large vessels, shipping sources said.

However, local shipping agents said the Iraqi government was offering incentives for Iraqi importers to use Umm Qasr for their imports and suggesting a series of measures to facilitate the use of the port, Iraq's only outlet to the Gulf

The incentives include free bunkering and free handling as well as free fuel for ships calling at the port for the first time and \$10 per tonne cash drawback (at the official exchange rate) for the impor-

The Chamber of Com-merce in Baghdad has issued a circular to all its members outlining the facilities that importers could enjoy if they use Umm Qasr.

In addition, Iraqi uewspapers have been calling on Iraqi merchants to use the Gulf port for their imports. They said the government

was also insisting that expor-ters use vessels of under 25,000-tonne capacity for exports to Iraq since only ships of that category could dock and unload at Umm Qasr. In one case, the sources told the Jordan Times, the

Australian wheat board was asked to change its plans to send 50,000 tonnes of wheat in one shipment aboard a vessel and use two 25,000tonne ships and send them to Umm Oasr. "It is not an isolated case,"

said a well-informed source. "The Iraqi government bas asked many other importers to explore the possibility of using 25,000-tonne ships to send goods to Iraq through Umm Oasr."

Sufian Mheisan, director of the Jordan Shipping Agents Association, said the association hoped that the government would offer incentives to Irag-bound imports through Agaba to make it attractive for Iraqi importers to continue to use the Red Sea port.

"We have to take into consideration the fact that 70 per cent of all cargo passing through Agaba was intended for Iraq before the sanctions were imposed," Mr. Mheisan told the Jordan Times.
According to Mr. Mheisan,

it is cheaper for exporters from Europe to send Iraqbound cargo to Aqaba rather tban Umm Qasr while Far Eastern exporters might find the Gulf port cheaper.

But considering that most of Iraq's imports in peacetime came from Europe, Agaba could continue to play a prominent role if the Iraqi government wanted the port Most owners of ships char-

tered to ferry Iraqi imports are reluctant to send their vessels to Umm Qasr because of the continuing fears of mines in the area. Furthermore, Aqaba has a reputation of high productivity in terms of loading and unloading — an operation which is hampered and slowed down at Umm Qasr because of technical reasons.

Mr. Samarai, who was on his way to Cairo to attend an Arab League transport ministers council meeting, also discussed his country's request to the U.N. sanctions committee for permission to operate a daily flight between Amman and Baghdad, they

Transport Ministry officials said Jordan had no objections to Iraqi Airways operating the flight, but noted that it was up to the U.N. to extend

the necessary exemption from the international sanctions imposed on Iraq following its August 1990 invasion. of Kuwait,

Iraqi Aiways planes are grounded in Amman, Tunis, Sudan and elsewhere.

The U.N. committee has consistently turned down eartier Iraqi requests for permission for Amman-Baghdad flights. At one point the come mittee also rejected an application for permission to service the grounded aircraft:

But, diplomatic sources say, there could be a change' of mind this time, given the fact that Iraq has now accepted long-term monitoring of its weapons programme under the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire.

"Against the backdrop of the new mood at the U.N., it is quite possible that the committee may extend approval this time," said a diplomatic source. "That is, of course," subject to agreement by the U.S. and Britain, the two countries which are thestaunchest opponents of any: goodwill gestire towards.

Iraqi of: ... sad their national c.r. .: i.d applied on humanitar i ground — mainly to help sick Iraqis who need treatment in Jordan or abroad and who cannot make the 1,000-kilometre overland

journey.

There has been no official: U.N. comment on the request vet.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Qatari foreign minister due in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Hammad Ben Jassem Ben Jaber Al Thani is due in Amman Saturday on a two-day visit to Jordan. He will hold meetings with senior government officials covering bilateral relations and ways for bolstering Qatari-Jordanian coopertion.

British MP arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — British parliament member Grevil Janner arrived in Amman via the King Hussein Bridge, on the River Jordan, on a several-day visit to Jordan. He is scheduled to hold meetings with Parliament members related to Jordanian-HALLAZ BAILBAT British relations and cooperation in parliamentary affairs. Mr. Janner is also planning to visit touristic attractions.

Arabs to discuss cooperation in transportation

AMMAN (Petra) - Jordan is to take part in an Arab ministers of transport meeting to open in Cairo Tuesday. Transport Minister Adib Halaseh will lead the Jordanian delegation to the meeting which is expected to discuss pan-Arab coopertion in the field of transport and follow up on the land transport and railway networks in Arab countries.

All fruit and vegetables allowed for export

AMMAN (Petra) — The Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) Monday announced that Jordanian exporters are allowed to export all types of vegetables and fruits. It also announced that the Jordan Company for Marketing Agricultural Products will import 3.000 tonnes of onions from now and until March 15, to meet the local demands. Furthermore, AMO announced that imports of mango from Sudan and Yemen is allowed, in implementation of agreements with the two countries, import of chestnut from Gaza and India, until March 31, bananas, at the rate of 300 tonnes a month until March 31 and citrus fruits and strawberries from Gaza will pass in transit only, in an effort to present any amounts of these products to leak to Jordanian markets.

Jordan's Arab League representative

endeavours to enhance Arab relations.

appointed CAIRO (Petra) — Jordanian Ambassador to Egypt Nayef Saoud Al Qadhi Monday met with Arab League Secretary General Ismat Abdul Meguid and handed bim a letter from Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan appointing him Jordan's permanent representative at the Cairo-based Arab League. Mr. Qadhi reviewed with Dr. Meguid the Arab situation and obstacles facing the Middle East peace process. Mr. Cadhi outlined to Dr. Meguid efforts exerted by His Majesty King Hussein and the Jordanian government to bolster Arab solidarity and heal Arab rifts. Dr. Meguid lauded the Kiog's efforts and said he would continue

Jordan, Sudan discuss cooperation in TV

AMMAN (Petra) - Director General of the Jordaoian Television Production Company Jawad Maraga Monday received Sudanese Minister of Planning Ali Taha who is currently visiting the Kingdom. The two discussed the prospect of producing joint Jordanian-Sudanese television programmes and training Sodanese personnel at the company. The minister, who was accompanied on the visit by Sudanese Ambassador to Amman Ali Numeiri, toured the company's studios to get familiarised with the work there.

AMMAN (Petra) - The Upper House of Parliament meets Tuesday under the chairmanship of its Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi. The House will discuss decisions taken by its various

House to meet for debate on peace talks

AMMAN (Petra) - The Lower House of Parliament will meet Wednesday under the chairmanship of its Speaker Taher Al Masri to bear a statement prepared by the government on the Middle East peace talks, in response to a bouse request. The House will also hear the government's answers to several deputies' queries and demands.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are solvised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

☆ The second exhibition of engineering books at the Jordan Engineers Association.

☆ Exhibition on the 100th anniversary of the death of French novelist Guy De Maupassant at the French Cultural Cente.

* Exhibition of Iraqi books at the Royal Cultural Centre. * Art exhibition by artists Ibrahim Al Abduli and Abdul Hussein Twaij at Alia Art Gallery. * Art exhibition by a number of Jordanian artists entitled "The

Sixth Exhibition — Samples From The Contemporary Jordanian Art 93" at the Spanish Cultural Centre. ★ Exhibition "Prints and Drawings of Fakhreluissa Zeid" (1915-1991) until the 15th of January '94 at Darst al Fanum of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation. Also showing the "Permanent" Exhibition. (Tel. 643251/2).

CHRISTMAS BAZAARS

Christmas bazaar at the Amman International Auto Exhibition/ Airport Road.

FILM

☆ Chinese film entitled "Horse On The Cinema Screen" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:30 p.m.

DRAMA

☆ Drama for children in Arabic entitled "The Question" at Haya Cultural Centre at 5:00 p.m.

Health, media officials should work together to provide services

By Rana Husseint Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The World Health Organisation's Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean Thursday ended here a four-day workshop and came up with important recommendations to improve the communication between the media and government departments and

The participants stressed that the government should adopt new media and health policies and facilitate the media's obtaining data and information from officials re-

garding health issues. Furthermore, participants in the workshop suggested that governments should provide banks of information. with data from the ministries of health, which would help the media and researchers. In addition, participants called on improving the media training centre at the Ministry of Information in Amman to help it become a regional

centre. The participants recommended using drama and T.V. programmes 10 provide health education and present facts to the public in a simple

conduct more workshops, increase the number of existing health programmes and media letters and improve communication skills in the region. The workshop, which was held between Dec. 20-23, cal-

They requested that WHO

led on workers in the fields of media and health to work together, noting that the private and the public sectors have a duty to join hands and complement the work of each other in providing health ser-The four-day session dis-

cussed several important issues regarding health, malpractices, utilising the media to provide health-related information and protection from communicable diseases. mainly AIDS, which, according to the latest numbers. provided by the Ministry of Health on Dec. 1, count 95 cases in Jordan.

By Rami G. Khouri

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The vanishing act can no longer be in play

THE DISAPPEARANCE of the former Libyan Foreign Minister Mansour Kikhia from his hotel room in Cairo on Dec. 10 is not the first incident involving an ordeal for an Arab opposition figure. The abduction of Moroccan opposition leader Mehdi Ben Baraka in Paris in 1965, his presumed murder, and the strain it caused to Moroccan-French relations are still fresh in many minds. A more recent disappearance involved the Lebanese Shi'ite leader, Imam Mousa Sadr who vanished during a visit to Libya in 1978. At the time of the Ben Baraka disappearance, the Moroccan authorities denied any connection to his abduction, but French investigations later implicated the North African country in the case. Libya still denies that it knows anything about the fate of Imam Sadr, but Shi'ite leaders in Lebanou still point their finger at Tripoli. Abduction and "liquidation" of political opponents has been always a method used by dictators all along history. It is not a new phenomenon.

The disappearance of Mr. Kikhia then can only be seen within this context. Political opponents are being gunned down frequently by the regimes in the Middle East and Latin America in particular but elsewhere as well. We do not know what Mr. Kikhia and his colleagues in the Libyan opposition did or are still doing in their opposition to the regime in Tripoli. It is politically stupid of course for Libva to "abduct" a dissident from the streets of Cairo, if it did. But first of all it is extremely inhumane to kidnap an old man from his wife and children at an age where human rights are being put on the top list of every

Yet, the plight of Mr. Kikhia and people like him represents only a fraction of the plight of opposition all over the Arab World. Thousands of political opponents languish in the prisons of different Arab regimes, some of them for more than three decades. Thousands were summarily executed. It is therefore extremely important for all those people who are concerned about human rights everywhere to help find out where Mr. Kikhia is and to release him

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

immediately.

SAWT AL SHAAB daily commented on Crown Prince Hassan's visit to the Roman Catholic Church in Sweifieh to present his good wishes to the heads of the Christian communities in Jordan by underlying the equality among members of the Jordanian people. Noting that the visit was a true manifestation of tolerance observed in the Kingdom in the word and the spirit the paper said tolerance and openess are strictly observed by the Hashemite family towards various sects. The paper said that it is political pluralism and respect of human rights which characterise the actions of members of the Royal family. The paper noted that the Royal family does not differentiate between Muslims and Christians. Addressing the bishops at the meeting, Prince Hassan underlined the importance of maintaining common denominators and of Jordanians joining hands and acting collectively towards ensuring a better future for the nation.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour said Monday that despite the agreement among world leaders on ways to help achieve world peace, no one at the people's level tasted real peace. Taher Al Udwan expressed the view that real peace would never be attained as major powers adhere to their selfish and interests their desire to rule the world. Underlining the need for the achievement of peace and world stability, the writer stressed the benefits of peace to the Middle East region noting that peace would have special taste because the region has lacked peace and stability for decades. It seems, said the writer, that while the leaders continue to discuss peace the ordinary masses are genuinely oriented towards real peace. The writer expressed hope that the coming year would see the peoples' desire for genuine peace.

The View from Fourth Circle

Building on the gains of the recent past

IN VIEW of the enormous economic and political changes that characterise our country and the entire Middle East region these days, it is appropriate to step back from day-to-day events and take a broader view of both the challenges we face and the strategies we have devised to meet those challenges. We are assisted in this task by the issuance this month of two valuable publications by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Progress of Nations and the State of the World's Children Report.

The wealth of statistical data in these two volumes allows us to note the progress that has been achieved in Jordan over the last few decades, to compare our performance against other countries in this region and throughout the world and to assess the strategy by which we address issues of maternal and child health and our overall approach to meeting basic buman needs

and improving the quality of life of Jordanians as a whole.

It would be a shame if the information in these two UNICEF publications were confined to specialists in maternal and child health issues, because the underlying issues of quality of life improvements and social, economic and political decision-making should be discussed throughout society and at

The statistical data is impressive. It shows that Jordan has continued to improve the health and education status of its children despite the powerful pressures of regional turbulence. economic constraints, population increase and a fragile resource base in terms of land and water. Among the most heartening statistics, I would mention the following:

- Jordan is tied with Kuwaii at the top of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region in terms of child nutrinon, with just six per cent of our children under the age of five suffering malnutrition.

- In the decade of the 1980s, we wete one of 20 countries in the developing world that halved the child mortality rate under the age of five. Our under five mortality rate (U5MR) declined from 66 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1980 to 32 per 1,000 in 1991.

- Among all MENA countries, we rank third in U5MR; only Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) enjoy lower under five mortality rates and they have far greater financial resources and smaller populations that we do.

— An impressive 92 per cent of Jordanian children reach at

least the fifth grade of primary school, compared to a MENA

regional average of \$1 per cent and a global average of 68 pet

- In the last 20 years (between 1970 and 1990) the female adult literacy rate in Jordan increased from 29 per cent to 70

These are only a few of the most striking of many indicators per cent. that document our progress in human development, and all decision-makers, educators and journalists should read reports and ponder their implications for our future national development strategy. Jordan's achievements in human development and quality of life in the last decade are all the more noteworthy because they took place during a period of economic distress.

In the period 1980-1991, for example, the gross national product pet capita in Jordan declined by an annual average of 1.7 per cent, and per capita income and the real purchasing power of the average family dropped sharply due to the devaluation of the dinar, imported inflation, rising unemployment and the increase in population. Despite these strong economic pressures, we continued to improve the quality of life of most Jordanians.

The situation new sees the economy picking up gradually after the shocks of the Gulf war and the launching of our economic adjustment programme in 1989. But the overall picture of our quality of life also reveals important new challenges that we have never faced before. The two most important ones, in my opinion, are the emergence of a marginalised underclass of chronically impoverished families and accelerating pressures on our natural resources, especially water and arable land.

We are challenged today to make a fundamental adjustment in the balance between public and private sector responsibili-ties. In the last half a century, quality of life gains have been achieved largely as a result of expansion of government services, such as health, education and employment. The nature of our new national needs is such that more government services cannot do the job on their own, even if the government bad the necessary money, exportise and management knowhow (which it does not). For example, lowering the infant mortality rare, improving nutrition levels, or reducing the incidence of disability among children can only register substantial gains on the basis of increasing the knowledge and participation of families and local communities.

A serious national effort is required to reduce the tendency of individuals and institutions to look to the central government for all the basic services that are required to improve quality of life; the public sector's role must be complemented by improved preventive measures that rely primarily on awareness and participation at the community level. This has clear implications for our political and economic decisionmaking structure, for people who assume greater responsibility for their own well-being will want to have a greater say in the policy and fiscal decisions that affect their lives. In view of the positive political evolution and democratisation that we are experiencing, there should not be any substantial political

Rather, the danger is that in a moment of short-term economic pressure and an increase in the number of families in need, the people may revert to the traditional habit of asking the government to redress all wrongs and to meet all needs. The emergence of pockets of poverty and need, in both urban and rural areas, and the dangerous pressures on our natural resources base add a sense of urgency to the process of

rethinking our national development strategy.

The answer to this important challenge will have to come out of the psyche and the sentiments of the people themselves. Clearly, though, this will require new initiatives that are based upon and that also enhance the principles that have allowed us to achieve impressive progress in recent decades: a) a parallel focus on education and egalitarian education of males and females, b) promoting community participation through local structures that reflect our communal sense of responsibility for our collective well-being, and, c) focusing government interventions and support on the most needy in society, so that the new stratum of poor families that emerged in the last five years does not become a chronic sub-class of marginalised people that results in a severe social and political cleavage based on criteria of survival and wealth.

Our experience in the last half a century suggests that we are well prepared to meet these challenges; the challenges themselves require that we recognise the need to reassess our needs and goals and to formulate new approaches that are in bne with our requirements, our capabilities, our values and our impressive legacy of human development.

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Communitarians — a dent in the wall of liberalism

By Karen J. Winkler

Bill Clinton is sounding a lot like certain academics these days. In calling on Americans to pledge service and sacrifice in a "New Covenant" with their government, and in several of his proposed policies, the president often echoes group of scholars who banded together in 1990 to proclaim a "communitarian"

Both the Clioton administration and the scholars stress the need to revive the moral ties that bind communities together. Both call for a new civic culture based less on individual rights and more on social responsibility. And both bave proposed similar public policies: family leave, to give parents mote time with their children; national service, to teach students civic duty; campaign reform, to purify politics. The resemblance is not accidental. (Family leave and national service have become law under the Clinton administration).

Three years ago. Amitai Etzioui, a social scientist who is a university professor at George Washington University in Washington, and William A. Galston, a professor of public affairs at the University of Maryland (College Park), decided to take ideas that were percolating through various academic disciplines and draw them together in a new "com-

'We made a conscious decision to move ideas outside academe," Prof. Galston says. And now Mr. Etzioni adds: "We're struggling for the soul of the Clinton administration." Their efforts raise questions

about scholarly movements that go public:

— How do scholars bridge the gap between political

theory and practice? - Can they hold together a loose web of intellectual principles when they confront divisive social issues such as family values and crime on the

What do they lose by

succeeding? The communitarians have had some measure of success. in early 1991, they started a journal. The Responsive Community, to air communitarian ideas: later that year, they held a "teach-in" in Washington, where they issued a platform calling for strengthening families, schools and communities, and for civic participation in

Al Gore (then a U.S. senator, now vice president) spoke at the teach-in: public figures such as Henry Cisneros (then a mayor, now U.S. secretary of Housing and Urban Development) and William D. Ruckelshaus signed the platform. So did well-known libetals such as John W. Gardner. founder of Common Cause. and conservatives such as Chestet E. Finn. Jt. a former official of the U.S. Department of Education and now a senior scholar with the Edison Project. Feminist trailblazer Betty Friedan signed, 25 did a wide assort-

ment of academics, including socialist Robert N. Bellah. economist Albert O, Hirschman, political scientist Ben-jamin R. Barber and the president of the American University (Washington), Joseph Duffey (now director of the U.S. Information Agency).

Some of those names, besides those of Mr. Gore. Mr. Cisneros and Mr. Duffey, are now turning up in the .Clinton administration. Prof Galston is serving as deputy assistant to the president for domestic poli-Scholarly trends nudged com-

munitarians towards politics. The movement started in political theory in the 1970s, on the coattails of a shift in academic philosophy away

from methodological arguments to a discussion of normative principles. Communitarianism has since lapped into a revival of interest in the pragmatism of John Dewey, who stressed participatory democracy and whom many communitarians now claim as one of their own.

As communitarianism moved into the social sciences, it was fueled by two trends there.

Says Alan Wolfe, dean of the graduate faculty at New York's New School for Social Research: "In the last few years, there has been a new interest in the social sciences both in discussing moral principles and in applying them to specific social-policy questions. Communitarianism has fit well

But communitarianism has also run up against academic obstacles. In some fields, it has been slowed by prevailing orthodoxies. In economics, for example, its criticism of individualism has often clashed with mainstream economists' faith in unrestrained competition. It has also run afoul of other scholarly movements, in-

cluding feminism. "Every time I start talking about not ceding the issue of family values to the Right. some feminists tell me that I'm oppressing women," says Jean Bethke Elshtain, a professor of political science and philosophy at Vanderbilt University. 'Especially in the academy. it's been hard not to get hooted

out of the room. Even avid supporters acknowledge that communitarians still make up only a minority movement in academe. But they have found the public arena more responsive.

Publishers say so-called eommunitarian books have touched a public nerve. One of the first academic books to invoke a communitarian ideal. Habits of the Heart. by Robert N. Bellah and four other scholars, has sold over 400,000 copies around the world.

A spate of other recent books that label themselves communitarian or that touch on communitarian themes of service and responsibility -Charles Taylor's Multiculturalism and "The Politics of Recognition" Benjamin R. Barber's An Aristocracy of Everyone and Philip Sclznick's The

Moral Commonwealth - are selling briskly.

Mr. Etzioni recently brought out The Spirit of Community, advertised as "a communitarian agenda.'

Personal contacts have com-

bined with political trends to help communitarians build a bridge to policymakers. Both Prof. Galston and Mr. Etzioni bave long-standing ties to the Democratic Party, Prof. Galston was issues director for Walter Mondale's 1984 presidential campaign, and Mr. Etzioni was a senior adviser in President Jimmy Carter's White House.

"In the late 1980s and eatly 1990s, the Democraric Leadership Council (DLC). undet the chairmanship of Bill Clinton, began to scan the horizon for ideas to create a new party - and they met up with communitarianism." Prof. Galston

"People like Bill Clinton were responding to their own experiences," be adds. "They saw coupling rights and responsibilities as both good policy and good politics."
As Prof. Galston and other

communitarians began to share ideas with policy officials at the Progressive Policy Institute. the DLC's think tank, the communitarian network also stepped up its public activities. It has published fout position papers - on families, gun control, social and economic policy and organ donation. The papers advocate such policies as giving parents allowances to make it easier for them to stay home with young children making divorce laws tougher: restricting the manufacture. sale and possession of guns; providing community development grants; and encouraging community-based efforts such as neighborhood crime watch-

The network has also started a newsletter, put out audio tapes, established a speakers' bureau and set up an 800 telephone number. In 1994, it plans to rate political candidates on a communitarian

Now the question is whether communitarians can hold together what started as a loose coalition of scholars with different politics, ideas and goals. Most communitarians say it is too early to tell. Within academe, there has

long been a political split among communitarians. Conservative theorists have attacked individualism for undercutting traditional communities. and liberals have criticized it for discouraging citizens from participating in democracy.

The academic balance may be tilting to the liberals, with a number of recent books and articles invoking "liberal com-munitarianism." But the communitarian network has taker. pains to stress that it is nonpartisan. Many communitarians. such as Vanderbilt's Elshiain, say the "communitarians are people who don't fit into tradilional liberal or conservative

The word still means different things to different people. the founder of Common Cause, now a professor of public service al Stanford University, stresses the democratic nature of communitarianism. "The key is building grassroots communities, where people make their own decisions.

Others emphasise social values. "The largest appeal of communitarianism," says David Popenoe, associate dean of the faculty of arts and sciences at Rutgers University, "is to liberals who have become social conservatives, and who believe in certain issues like law and order that traditionally were considered conservative.

Mr. Bellah, a professor of sociology at the University of California at Berkeley, signed the communitarian platform but is nervous about the label. To some supporters it means face-to-face groups and people taking responsibility for themselves," he says. "But if we don't look at the large institutions and structures, such as the economy, that form a good society, we are not going to

accomplish much." Mr. Barber of Rutgers signed the communitarian platform "with exception" to the section on moral education. "I wanted to indicate that I don't believe the community always trumps the individual," he

says.

Mr. Etzioni acknowledges that "there are some issues. such as abortion and gay rights, that we know communitarians cannot agree on. so we have completely avoided

Can communitarians do that

in politics?
"The cliche is that the devil is in the details," Prof. Galston says. "But we may find that some issues are more difficult to compromise in the language of ideology than in specific policies. We'll have to see when we draft legislation."

Mr. Finn is more sceptical. "A fair number of people who support communitarianism principles are fretful that, when it comes to actual politics, the traditional liberals will do most of the heavy lifting in the Clinton administration. he says.

From outside communitarianism, some critics fault the movement for being too vague - and even inconsistent or

dangerous.
Nadine Strossen, president
of the American Civil Liberties Union and a professor of law at New York University, says some communitarians oppose regulating hate speech - calling on members of local communities to counter it in public discussions rather than legislating against it - but favour random drug testing ot laws making divotce more difficult.

"From a eivil-libertarian point of view, coercion makes all the difference. Some of the policies communitarians are calling for to help families or to make communities safe would be fine if they were voluntary, but would endanger liberty if not," Prof. Strossen says. I

"There's so much inconsistency, you really don't know what communitarians support." Prof. Strossen also objects

that commonitarians have scapegoated individual rights by pitting them against community needs.

"Our country was found on the principle that respecting individual rights is the essence of the common good," she says. She adds that recent decisions by the Supreme Court of the United States and lower federal (U.S. government) courts abridging rights also "shed grave doubt on the premise that rights have run amuck."

Some liberal scholars also fear that communitarianism could degenerate into neoconservatism.

"Responsibility' often becomes a code word for 'conservatism,' for blaming the poor for their own plight," says Herbert J. Gans, a professor of sociology at Columbia University. "It allows you to skip over complex problems."

Mr. Etzioni agrees rhat communitarian policies such as those aimed at encouraging parents to care for their children must be accompanied by economic reforms to make it easier for them to do so. But others suggest that those caveats, too, often get lost in

"It's dangerous to talks about family values without also talking about changing gendet roles and the idea that women are the ones who take care of children," says Mary Frances Berry, a professor of history and law at the University of Pennsylvania. In the 1980's. sbe recalls, some feminist groups emphasised family needs as they pursued policies to benefit women, such as family leave and provisions for child care. "What they got was an attack on Roe v. Wade." she says.

Such doubts have led some scholars to question what communitarians lose by becoming a political movement. The New School's Wolfe, for example, says he is sympathetic to communitarian principles but refused to sign the communitarian platform, "I'm not a political activist. I want to retain questions as open questions, and I think we need a lot more debate about communitarian-

Ms. Elshtain agrees. "I cherish my identity as an intellectual and don't want to become a policy wonk," she says. But she adds that she is comfortable publishing in the communitarian journal, which is more scholarly than the network's newsletter. "Communitarianism is broad enough for all of us," she says.

LETTERS

Freedom of a hero

To the Editor:

E. Yaghi's article "C'est la Vie" (Jordan Times, Dec. 2, 1993) makes us stop for a moment to think about one of the most incomprehensible concepts of life: that of war.

Humanity has reached a point in which writing about war bas become useless. The more authors pur the emphasis on the subject, the more we witness the world's neglect of it. And what evidence do we oeed more than our sad present, which adds to the tragic history of the world.

Wars take today the biggest chunk of the news items, if not all of it sometimes. And where there is no actual fighting. there are other conflicts: economic, religious, even cultural, which are destructive as well,

To write about war may be ineffective. What is important is the individual's concept of war. Belief is what makes life go on, but one sometimes sticks to a belief without questioning its validity to be a hero is all that matters.

Westerners do not care about humanity more than the rest of the world, they only try to project a compassionate image in order to win the world's sympathy. The case is just the opposite in our position.

There is a big difference between a hero of war and a hero of peace. A hero of war is the one who worships power. For this reason, he is weak and can be easily overcome. Power is no longer the richness and beauty of the soul. it is an evil, capitalist and propagandist monster. But if it happens that the hero of war reaches power, he becomes protected by it although he does not have the minimum of courage. He is unreasonable and he knows it. Tyranny becomes the easier way to shape this power.

The real hero is the one who controls the evil inside himself; and this would be a hero of peace. But this is not enough. The hero of peace has, after he controls the evil inside himself, to stop the tyranny of external evil upon him. So when he fights, he should fight for his internal and external liberation as one is the result of the other.

Claudia Rafick Howari, P.O. Box 283, Yarmouk University,

Movement grows in Japan for scrapping death penalty

By Pierre-Antoine Donnet Agence France Presse

TOKYO - Japan ranks alongside the United States as the last major industrialised country where the death penalty is still practised, but those lobbying for the ultimate sanction to be scrapped forever are gaining groun

Seven people have been executed in Japan since the start of the year, the highest annual toll since 1976, with the most recent cases being in late November, four months after Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa came to power.

Fifty-five other people are waiting on death row, including several elderly men and two women. In Japan, the method of execution is hanging, which takes place early in the day one or two hours after the condemned person has been informed.

Even though Japan reaffirmed just last month that it had no intention of abolishing the death penalty, the latest executions have provoked roubled reactions, including from within Mr. Hosokawa's nckety seven-party coalition.

Among those who expressed dismay was the minister for the science and technical agency, 5. 02.4K Satsuki Eda, who said the deaths were "extremely regrettable.

Forum 90 has become the major vehicle for those clamouring for Japan to ratify the international convention against the death penalty.
One of its leaders, Yoshibiro

, where the $x^{1/2}$

 $\{(x,y)\}_{x\in \mathcal{X}_{p}} \leq c_{p} \sum_{i=1}^{p} c_{p$

Bee Buryang

Yasuda, declares: "The abolition of the death penalty is nearing. The latest executions have roused a major debate in

the country. A growing num-ber of deputies now understand the importance of the

"It is an essential step for any so-called modern society, because abolishing the death penalty concretely establishes the value of human life," Mr. Yasuda says.

But Japan is a country where opinion is rooted in the belief in retribution — that a murderer must be punished with his life. Just 28 per cent of Japanese support ending the

death penalty, according to an opinion poll published in May.

Even though this represents a minority, it is still a growing minority, for the figure in 1989 was only 15.7 per cent in

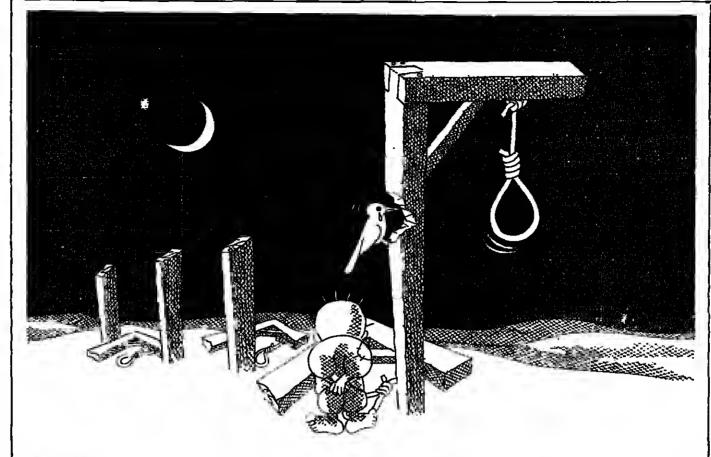
Japanese abolioonists insist that the relatively weak support they get from the public will not be a factor to stop the hangman stowing away his

They point to the case of France, where the death penalty was scrapped in 1981 even though 62 per cent of the public were opposed to the move. Forum 90 says that 260 of the 763 deputies in the two houses of the Diet support its case, at least 50 more than at the start of the year. Nine

In Asia, only a few countries and regions have taken the step of formally scrapping execution: Australia, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Kiribati, the Mar-shall Islands, Micronesia, New Zealand, the Salomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu,

ministers are also in favour, it

"If Japan decides to follow suit, that decision will have an



enormous impact on the rest of the region," Mr. Yasuda says. Forum 90 describes life on Japan's death row as "barbar-

ous and inhumane. Those condemned to death are effectively isolated from other prisoners, kept in cells where they are under roundthe-clock observation by remote-circuit TV, and are only permitted to send letters to close relatives.

Even wandering about one's cell or lying on the mattress without due cause, or singing or speaking to oneself, are generally forbidden, Mr. Yasuda says. The only relief from this is when the Buddhist priest enters the cell to advise the inmate on how to cope with his

This severe treatment, which was beefed up at the end of the 1960s, aims to create a climate of austerity so that the conde-

final hours.

mued man "can attain peace of mind and accept his coming

tle away the militants' support.

resentative living in France, said recently that the FIS is

not in control of the situation

on the ground" and conde-

mned the recent spate of kill-

ings and kidnappings of fore-

Algeria's war-weariness

could he one factor that

prompted Algerian authorities

to hold secret talks with found-

ing members of the now ban-

ned FIS in a bid to halt the

violence is also rooted in the

and social crisis, which was

provoked by sharp fall in pet-rol prices in 1986.

It may he a start, but the

cycle of violence.

Moussa Krouche, a FIS rep-

The Japanese Justice Ministry's formal policy is never to confirm executions. A message is usually sent to the prisoner's family to announce his death. but the cause is never given.

Making peace has been harder than expected for Israelis and Arabs

By Nicolas B. Tatro The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM - Making peace is hard to do. That's the lesson of more than two years of quarrelsome and fragmented Middle East negotiations which have hopped all over the globe in search of a solution.

The process is inching forward but ultimate success depends on the Palestinians and Israelis, who are behind schedule in starting the self-rule plan for the West Bank region of Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

Syria has agreed to resume talks with Israel early next ycar in Washington, probably in February

Jordan and Israel have talked quietly in the back-

Six committees and a myriad of working groups are studying more than 50 projects for joint cooperation in the Mideast.

Ingrained mistrust and almost daily bloodshed have slowed the process, and neither Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin or PLO leader Yasser Arafai have proved to be adept salesmen to a public often confused and ill-informed about

the issues. When Mr. Rabin reluctantly accepted a handshake from Mr. Arafat on the White House lawn Sept. 13, hopes were raised for a quick resolu-

But the going has been tougher than expected.

Israel has insisted that before withdrawal begins, agreement be reached on security issues because it fears Mr. Arafat will not be able to contain extremists, especially the Muslim fundamentalists who have killed 21 Israelis since mid-September.

Palestinians see no letup in Israeli army arrests or shootings that have claimed 27 Palestinians killed in the same period. Many are starting to question Israel's intention to withdraw from occupied land.

The accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation was merely an outline, designed to get the process started without having to tackle sensitive issues that had thwarted previous peace initiatives.

Critics say the agreement is seriously flawed, that the handshake was the "happy ending" of a movie that has yet to

be made. Moshe Maoz, a political science professor at the Hebrew

University of Jerusalem, said postponing tough issues - like Jewish settlements. Jerusalem and Palestinian demands for a state - made the whole idea of an interim, "Gaza-Jericho

first," solution unworkable. The ambiguity is not helpful. It creates resentment among both Israelis and Palestinians," said Mr. Maoz, who has been an adviser to Foreign Minister Shimon

"Palestinians need encouragement that in three to five years they will have a state. Jewish settlers need a clear message that they will have to evacuate or live under

Palestinian sovereignty.

Hanan Ashrawi, who was until recently a PLO spokeswoman, said Israeli sentlements in the heart of Palestinian areas were a key problem. They will be targets for attacks by extremists and keep soldiers on the ground where they are not wanted.

"An agreement with land mines is a recipe for future conflict. Israel should dig up these landmines now,"

Mr. Rabin has decided to take a go-slow approach. however, and aides say he will not make any unilateral gestures like uprooting settle-

"We appreciate the fact that things are taking more time than some people might have hoped for, but we feel that the most important thing is to move ahead slowly but surely and not with a big leap that wil ignore the issues which still have to be resolved," said Uri Dromi, director of the Govern-ment Press Office.

The central issue now is control of the bridges and border erossings linking the West Bank to Jordan and the Gaza Strip to Egypt, If Mr. Arafat controls the crossings, it is a symbol of sovereignty and will end humiliating searches of travellers. But Israel fears that will be an avenue for gunrunning and terrorists.

In talks in Al Arish, Egypt, Israel and the PLO are mapping the transfer of power from Israel's military government to

the new Palestinian authority. The two sides have also met in Paris to discuss trade policies and have until July to

reach agreement. The impasse in the Israel-PLO talks is having a domino effect, holding up progress with other countries as well,

Mr. Rahin, according to insiders, does not want to make a deal with Syria on the return of the Golan Heights until Palestinian autonomy is well along. He fears the Israeli public will not take too many concessions to the Arabs all at

Without an agreement with Syria. Lehanon refuses to make a deal and Jordan is reluctant to start implementing the outline for peace signed Sept. 14 in Washington. In talks in late November, the two sides agreed Jordanian bank branches would be opened in the West Bank but that plan has been stalled awaiting PLO approval.

There is yet another level of Arab-Israeli negotiations - . . the so-called multilateral talks held with the help of 30 countries including the United States and Russia. Recent rounds have been held in Beijing, Tokyo, Cairo. Copenhagen, Moscow and Tunis with the topics being regional cooperation in the environment, water, refugees. economic development and

arms control. Among the more than 50 projects being studied by a myriad of working groups are roads linking Israel to the rest of the Middle East, regional power grids, water-sharing and arms verification.

Season's Greetings

A Special Discount on Keyboards

Sudan leaders mark Christmas in south

KHARTOUM (Agencies) -Senior members of the strongly Islamic government in Sudan celebrated Christmas inthe three main towns in the south, apparently in an attempt to dispel the impression that the government is anti-Christian.

Vice President Al Zubeir Mohammad Saleb was in Juba, the main town in the south. Mohammad Al Amin Khalifa, speaker of the unelected legislature, was in Wau and Brigadier Salaeddin Karrar, the minister of energy and mining, was in Malakal.

The three men, all former members of the military council which ruled Sudan until September, attended prayers in churches in the three provincial capitals Saturday, news-

Never before have so many senior officials from Khartoum celebrated Christmas in the south, where the people are mostly either Christians or

Southern rebels have been fighting since 1983 to overthrow the Khartoum government, which is dominated by Muslim and Arabic-speaking

Some buman rights groups have accused the government of obstructing the activities of the Christian churches and of trying to convert southerners to Islam by force.

But the three politicians told Christmas worshippers that Islam and Christianity coexisted peacefully in Sudan and that reports of persecution were an invention by hostile

State television showed Major-General Saleh telling worshippers in Juba that all religions were the same and he did not see any difference between Islam and Christianity. In a separate development, a Khartoum newspaper said the government had protested at the U.S. government making

posthumous awards to two Sudanese executed by the government in southern Sudan last

The superior honour award was given last Tuesday to the families of Andrew Tombe and Baudoin Tally at the U.S. emhassy. Both worked for the U.S. government aid agency USAID in Juba.

The rebuke in a government newspaper marked yet another deterioration in relations between Washington and Khartoum, once a key U.S. ally in the Horn of Africa.

The daily Al Engaz Al Watani, quoting unnamed "Sudanese diplomatic ventions on the question."

The paper said, however, that the government would not

according to police. Goods that are not bought

when, after a long struggle, security forces took control of off a once-lucrative source of income for militant groups that had been fed by Friday collec-

Who kills who in Algeria's war? security forces retaliating in increasing crackdowns to whit-

By Hassen Zenati Agence France Presse

ALGIERS - More than 600 groups of armed Islamic militants are thought to be operating in Algeria, fighting what they see as a holy war in which the law of the gun is swiftly becoming a way of life.

On the streets it is becoming increasingly difficult to diffe-rentiate between "ordinary" crimes and "political" crimes.
Armed robbery is on the increase, bandits roam the country's roads holding up security vans, disputes and arguments end in gun battles. blackmail of foreign or private

Algerian businesses is rife. Officials say that out of the 200 armed thefts in the first quarter of 1993 many were carried out to finance the "jibad" — or holy war — and helped raise about 600,000 French francs (\$100,000),

are stolen - some 612 hunting rifles and 272 vehicles have been reappropriated to the

The situation worsened many urban mosques, cutting

tions, and the sale of prayer cassettes and religious books. Witnesses say the lines are now so blurred that even crimes of passion, the settling of personal scores, or hanal disputes between estate agents have been described as politically-motivated --- even if most

any group. In return militant groups have hlamed some attacks on the divisions between the police and the information ser-

of them are never claimed by

Western observers believe many of the 600 groups are little more than cells of two to three people acting independently and with little coordina-

They believe they are killing in "the name of God" and yet often their victims are members of other cells who also share the goal of creating an

Islamic state in Algeria.
Some 3,000 people, including civilians, militants and security forces have died in the past two years since the fundamentalists launched their

armed struggle.
It followed the cancellation in January 1992 of the second round of general elections that the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was set to win. Since then the violence has shown little sign of abating, with

Young, unemployed men, disaffected university students and others in the underclass make willing recruits to the holy war.

On Sunday the radical armed Islamic group claimed responsibility for a series of fatal attacks on foreigners in Algeria in a statement tn the Paris-based daily Le Monde in its weekend edition.

The statement warned: "The attacks will continue... we will continue to hunt down the enemies of God.'

King receives message from Assad (Continued from page 1)

Arab land. Syrian-Israeli talks are deadlocked over the status of the

Golan Heights. Mr. Sharaa said on arrival the Assad-Clinton summit would affect the whole peace

process. Mr. Sharaa criticised the PLO and said there was no current Syrian-PLO coordina-

(Continued from page 1)

bringing anything new with me." Mr. Peres said.

day that Prime Minister Yit-

zhak Rabin told a cabinet

meeting Israel was prepared to

nearly double its offer of land

square kilometres. However, that remained far short of the

200 square kilometres that Mr.

Israel Radio reported Sun-

"The implementation of the PLO-Israel deal does not affect the Syrian track of negotiations or other tracks," Mr. Sharaa said. "But the coming steps will help us all in shifting the

track. "As an Arab party con-cerned with Arab coordination and a unified Arab stand, we

peace process to its right he said.

had participated in convening several ministerial meetings for countries concerned with the peace process; but unfortunately one of the Arab parties had quit coordination attempts and the unified Arab stand,"

He said Jordanian-Syrian coordination will go ahead, and Syria's coordination with Lebanon was proceeding well.

than ever the crucial positions

of the other, and neither side

planning to give in easily," he

said. "But the common ground

on both sides is the desire to reach agreement already this An Egyptian government newspaper, Al Akhbar, meanwhile denied Egypt was press-uring the Palestinians to make concessions to obtain an

accord on launching self-rule. Israeli government spokes-man and Health Minister Chaim Ramon said Sunday that an agreement might be reached within 10 days.

Rabin wins

(Cootinued from page 1)

threw out a gentleman's agreement with the government that guaranteed each side would match the other's absences due to illness or travel overseas. Benyamin Netanyahu, head

of the right-wing Likud Party. told his legislators at the time to use all legitimate means to topple the government. Since then, both sides have scrambled to fill the chamber for no-confidence motions.

Seven coalition members. including two ministers, and 13 opposition members were absent for Monday's vote.

"Maybe in this place you have a majority," said Mr. Netanyahu. "But in the street you don't have any majority and today we are expressing the feelings of the nation; the lack of confidence it has for

devices," said Dr. Sheldon Segal of the New York Populaoon Council.

Some progress has been made in the Third World. Average fecundity has gone down from six children per woman to less than four in one generation.

woman in 1960 to 4.4 today and in Latin America from 5.9 to 3.2. But in Sub-Saharan Africa, the rate has remained steady at 6.5 children per woman for the past 30 years.

The experts said that often there were economic, cultural and political barriers to be overcome. The emphasis should be to encourage a political commitment to cutting the birthrate, on educating couples and making it easier for them to obtain cheap contraceptives



Toujan Faisal, member of Parliament, met with members of the Amman Marrintt management team upon her attendance of talks on 'Cooperation Plans for Arab NGO's on Children Right Awareness' held at the hotel. (From right to left) Joseph Khoury, director of Sales and Marketing, Richard Lyon, general manager and Mr. Rami Safadi, sales executive. Participants discussed papers on 'increasing people awareness on Children Right Convention and its implementation' proposing to fulfill objectives through workshops, studies, and circulation of data towards such awareness.

Third World needs 10-year contraception offensive By Benedicte Manier We must provide developing clined from six children per countries over ten years with Agence France Presse 50 billion condoms, 11 billion PARIS - Population experts oral contraceptives, 178 milmeeting here have called for a lion sterilisation operations ten-year campaign to promote and 400 million intra-uterine contraception in the Third

World to curb a population explosion which could hit 8.5 billion in the first quarter of next century. The earth's population has

doubled since 1950 and at present rates of growth will reach 6.7 billion withio ten years. The experts warned at a twoday symposium which opened Tuesday under the auspices of the French foundation Equilibres et Populations.

World population now stands at 5.5 hillion and over-po-

pulation bas already slashed the living standards of millions in the developing world. Some 770 million people are underfed. Two billion do not have-

enough clean water and 100 million have had to leave home in to make a living. Every year., 14 million children die from preventable diseases. Three people are born every second and in the developing

world only about half of the

couples have access to family

planning, because of illiteracy.

Many women are unable to

make such decisions on their United Nations experts say one in three pregnancies in the

world is unwanted. The Third World is responsible for 95 per cent of world population growth and in some countries the population has doubled in the space of one generation.

If we do not want 6.7 hillion

people on earth in a decade.

YAMAHA 🚳 لهالم Since 1887 Wide Varalety GiRhoma.

1.50

around Jericho to 20 to 50

Mr. Peres orchestrated the secret talks in Norway that led to the Israeli-PLO accord on principles of peace signed last Sept. 13. Mr. Abbas was a major player in the Oslo dialogue on the Palestinian side. Mr. Abbas and Mr. Peres opened the first session of

Arafat has insisted on.

but have not headed their delegations since, Participation by Mr. Abbas had been in question because of his disagreement with Mr. Arafat over conduct of the talks. Sources in Tunis, who spoke privately, said Mr. Abbas had complained that Mr. Arafat was pushing "un-

Cairo negotiations in October

realisite demands Mr. Peres and Mr. Abbas both reportedly want to push for agreement quickly to help stop violence by opposition Palestinians and Jewish settlers that is threatening the entire peace process.

But in both their camps. there are voices urging caution, especially in Israel where Mr. Rabin has repeatedly said The wants a thorough agreement rather than a quick one. A Dec. 13 deadline for starting the Israeli withdrawal was

Peres and Abbas hold talks in Cairo missed because of disagree-

> also disagree on many details of how Palestinians will run day-to-day affairs under autonomy, which could further detay agreement unless there is an overall breakthrough.

delays is in sight. Mr. Peres sounded diplomatic but non-committal when questioned by reporters earlier on Monday at the Egyptian

rived in Cairo. mediate responsibility for over one million people and that is a

He added: "On security matters, we shall remain true and loyal to the letter and spirit of the declaration of princi-Mr. Arafat told Reuters

week's talks. from Israel's ruling Labour Party, told reporters after returning from a meeting with

Sunday he was hoping for

could be agreement this week. "The talks are going to be very tough, very stubborn, with each side knowing better

sources," said that the embassy in honoring traitors violated "all diplomatic norms, while the Sudanese government has observed all international con-

file an official protest.

ments over Jericho and who will control the borders to Jordan and Egypt. But the two sides apparently

Palestinian sources said some progress was made on the outstanding sticking point at talks in Paris and Oslo last week. Palestinian negotiators and Israeli officials expressed optimism that an end to the

Foreign Ministry. He met Mr. Musa before Mr. Abbas ar-"Let us not forget that the Palestinians will take an im-

serious responsibility."

"positive answers" during this Nissim Zvili, a politician Mr. Arafat in Tunis that there

Asian stock markets shoot up to new highs

TOKYO (R) — Asia's surging stock markets continued their bull stampede Monday led by markets in Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines which all posted record

Tokyo's stock market was a major exception, with share prices closing sharply lower. pushing the dollar bigher against the yen.

In Singapore, frantic buying took share prices to a new peak, sending the 30-share Straits Times industrials index to a closing high of 2,378.43. The index, up 2.24 per cent,

or 52.09 points, from Friday's closing high, was just below an intra-day all-time bigh of 2,384.01 set in afternoon trade. - A record volume of 746.20 million sbares was traded worth \$1.56 billion (\$977 mil-

In neighbouring Malaysia, the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange followed suit led by foreign buying of selected blue chips. The composite index surged to a new high of 1.206.80 points before closing at 1,205.28, up 26.82 points

from Friday. In Bangkok, Thai shares surged 2.75 per cent to break through the 1,600 barrier on the set index, setting a new closing bigh in active trade, brokers said

The index jumped a flat 43 points to close at 1,608.12, breaking its previous high at 1,565.12 ou Friday.

While Asia's other recordbreaking market, Hong Kong, was closed for the Christmas break, Taiwan also caught the fever with its stocks surging 3.2 per cent to end at a 29-month high in beavy trade.

The weighted index bit an intra-day high of 5,530 and closed 171.30 points bigher at 5,491.68, its bighest finish since 5,591.96 on July 5, 1991. Turnover was a bealthy T78.59 billion (\$2.9 billion).

Some brokers attributed gains partly to a commercial times report quoting Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Day Linin as saying a range of 5,000 to 7,000 points was an "appropriate level" for the market.

"Some players expect 5,800-6,000 by year end," said Tu Jin-Lung of Grand Cathay. In Manila, share prices shot

up to a new record high close

as demand continued to rise in a builish market. "We've been saying for

some time now that the market should correct, but it refuses to consolidate due to too much demand," said Noel Reyes, vice president at DMT Secur-

The Manila composite index zoomed about 173 points while Makati soared about 160 points.

The iudex was up 27.10 points from Friday's close. In Tokyo, gloomy sentiment sent stocks sbarply lower. Investors were discouraged by Prime Minister Moribiro Hosokawa's failure to offer concrete economy-boosting steps on Priday.

The benchmark Nikkei average closed at 16,819.88 down 321.23 points, falling below 17,000 for the first time since Dec. 8.

"The market was deadlocked in the afternoon, with no major sell or buy orders," said Taketoshi Hashizume, general manager at Yamaichi Secur-

The downside may stay firm for the rest of the week as less selling may emerge, while baying linked to the launch of new investment trusts is expected, Mr. Hashizume said. Bourses in Australia, New Zealand, India and Sri Lanka

In the currency market, the dollar kept its morning gains against the yen on the back of weakness in Japanese share prices but its top was heavy due to lack of market moving incenoves in the afternoon.

were closed for market holi-

The dollar closed at 111.25 ven and 1.6973 marks, up from 110.74 and 1.6944 at 1300

Rome finalises tax increases

ROME (R) — The Italian government was Monday finalising a round of tax increases, dubbed the annual "fiscal beating," that would raise 6.7 tril-tion lire (\$3.9 billion) to stop next year's accounts getting out of control.

The tax hikes, due to be passed by the cabinet Wednesday, are the final part of a package of austerity measures which the government plans for the new year.

"The package will be very balanced." Treasury Minister Piero Barucci said shortly before Christmas. "It won't be painless but it won't ruin pe-

ple's holidays, either." Leaked details of the package point to an increase of one of the lowest brackets of value added tax (VAT) to 13 per cent from 12, hitting a range of

Motorists are expected to face increases of up to 80 lire (47 cents) that will take petrol to around 1,660 lire (97 cents) per litre, among the most expensive in Europe.

Prices of some spirits and wines will be boosted by up to 200 lire (12 cents), economists

Italians will also have to pay more for the stamp duties on annual fees paid to keep their passports and driving licences valid, according to prediction.

Last week, parliament gave its final approval to the 1994 budget, which calls for unpopular cuts in health, educaoon and pensions spending.

The tax package, unlikely to make politicians popular in the run-up to general elections expected next spring, will supplement the budget by raising

extra revenue. Together, the two measures aim to cut Italy's deficit -- the country's overdraft - by 31 trillion lire (\$18.2 billion).

The increases will raise the burden further on one of Europe's most heavily taxed nations and are expected to push up inflation slightly.

However, economists say that will be better than a blow to Italy's image if it failed to keep its accounts in order.

'The package will be unpopular but it is the best that could have been presented under the circumstances," said

one Milan-based economist. "The government's credibility is at stake and it needs to fine the cash."

Prime Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, a respected former central bank chief appointed last April to implement financial reforms and guide Italy towards early elections, has made controlling the country's huge debts one of his too priorities.

His government has pledged to contain next year's deficit -the shortfull between government spending and income to within its 145 trillion 1885 billion) target.

Italy built up the debts from the early 1980s onwards as government spending began to spin out of control.

Yeltsin decree liberalises Russian grain market

MOSCOW (R) - President Boris Yeltsin has limited the role of the state in Russia's domestic grain market and told semi-autonomous republics and regions they must take responsibility for their own. supplies.

A presidential decree, published at the weekend by the official ITAR-TASS news agency, said federal authorities

would form a strategic grain reserve in 1994, but farmers would, not be obliged to sell grain to the state as in the past. The decree, which ordered federal and regional authorities to buy grain for theirreserves at market prices. effectively ended the state order system that has been the

cornerstone of the food dis-

tribution system for decades.

The size of the federal reserve, depending on military and other essential state needs. should be determined by Jan. 1, the decree said. The state-controlled grain purchasing agency. Roskhle-

boprodukt, will still be responsible for supplying the reserve using federal budget "Subjects of the Russian

Federation (semi-autonomou republics and regions) will meet their demand for grain and grain products indepen-dently," the decree said.

It also outlawed attempts to restrict free movement of or obstruct trade in grains and oilseeds within Russia, saying local authorities guilty of this risked losing all federal support for ugriculture.

The decree called for Privatisation of grain purchase, storage and processing facilities. most of which are owned bi Roskhleboprodukt, by April 1. But it was not clear how much would remain in state hands.

The state property committee was ordered to list those enterprises in which the state would have a majority shareholding for three years.

France can expect only slow growth in '94 — **OECD**

PARIS (Agencies) — France's economy will see gradual growth in 1994, with lower. interest rates and improved export markets, but unemployment will continue to soar until more substantial recovery in

1995, the OECD has said. "Output growth should strengthen gradually during 1994, driven by lower interest rates and export growth," the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said in its year-end

economic outlook. The think-tank for rich nations said interest rates should fall significantly from next year in line with German rates, with the cost of three-month money averaging five per cent in 1994 and 3.9 per cent in 1995 from

around 6.5 per cent now. The French central bank has been cautious on monetary: policy despite the virtual collapse of the European Community (EC) exchange rate mechanism in August and has trimmed its key intervention rate by just 0.55 percentage points since then.

KUALA LUMPUR (R) -

Malaysia launched its second

car company Monday, a joint

venture with Japan's Daihatsu

Motor Co. Ltd. to make zippy,

compact vehicles for

Malaysia's rapidly growing

middle class and increasingly

economical," said Prime

Minister Mahathir Mohammad

"It will be affordable and

The OECD expects French gross domestic product (GDP), a key measure of the size of the economy, to grow by 1.1 per cent next year after a 0.9 per cent contraction this year, with expansion quicken-

ing in 1995 to 2.7 per cent. The government forecasts growth of 1.4 per cent next year but most private economists reckon that this is too

optimistic.

The OECD said that despite a cut in income taxes the budget deficit would narrow by 0.75 percentage points as a share of GDP due to spending restraints. But the actual deficit might grow from .1993's expected shortfall of 317.6 billion francs (\$54.3 billion at current rates).

The government is forecasting a budget deficit of around 300 billion francs (\$51.3 bil-'lion) for 1994.

Unemployment — aiready at a record 12 per cent of the. workforce in October — will increase to 12.5 per cent late next year before falling slowly in 1995, the agency said. High

the company. Perusahaan Otomobil Kedua SDN BHD,

or Perodua, along with its "kancil" (mouse deer) logo.

will roll off the assembly line in

July, 1994 and will go on sale in September, said company

chairman Raja Mohar Raja

The 660 ce car, priced at

around 25,000 ringgit (\$9,700).

is aimed at first car owners.

Badiozaman said.

The first Perodua Kancils

jobless levels will dent consum-

er confidence and spending. But it said potential export growth could give an important boost to the economy.

With increased competitiveness and imports growing more slowly than exports, the balance of payments surplus should contribute a quarter percentage point to growth in 1994 and 1995.

However, the OECD warned that a recovery in exports next year was by no means certain.

Economy Minister Edmond Alphandery said the French economy seems well placed to recover at the beginning of He told parliament that "it is

relatively reasonable to think

that economic activity should

begin to move forwards at the beginning of 1994."
Mr. Alphandery, who was defending a bill on various economic and financial matters, said that the recovery would be "slow" and would be insufficient to deal with the

social problems which France

motorcycle owners who want

to upgrade and families

wishing a second car, Mr. Raja

The Perodua is the brain-

child of Mr. Mahathir, who felt

that Malaysia's first car, the

Proton Saga built with Mitsu-

bishi Motors Corporation, had

become too expensive for most

first-time car buyers, industry

A standard, no-frills Proton

Malaysia launches second national car company

Mohar said.

sources said.

He stood by the official view that the French economy would grow by 1.4 per cent next year, having declined by 0.7 per cent or 0.8 per cent this year. These forecasts were realistic even if they are not enough.

But Mr. Alphandery also. said: "It is reasonable to think that the forecast we have made bas a chance of becoming

There was "no point in maintaining a morose climate to no purpose...catastrophe is not at all certain" and "for the time being any way. 1 do not think that there is any reason to talk in alarmist terms...the situation is no longer deteriorating...many companies see a slight improvement."

Mr. Alphandery was referring to the monthly report by the Bank of France which said that French industrial output had rallied in November on the basis of returns from company

chief executives. Output bad increased in the

now costs about 33,000 ringgit

(\$13,000) compared with

19,000 when it was first laun-

· The Proton car project. a

cornerstone of Mr. Mahathir's

ambitious plan to make

Malaysia an industrialised na-

oon, was widely criticised by

economists as being financially

unviable and ran into difficul-

ched in 1985.

ties initially.

sectors of food and agriculture. cars, intermediary goods and professional equipment, and it steadied in the area of consumer goods, the bank of France said.

But commercial activity declined and turnover fell by 4.2 per cent from the figure in October on a seasonallyadjusted basis.

Demand had increased particularly owing to an increase in exports to strong markets and notably in South East Asia. Latin America and the United States.

The outlook for orders and stocks had "improved" the bank said. For the previous month the

But the venture has since

turned around, braced by gov-

ernment incentives and a

booming economy, in which

the gross domestic product bas grown an average of eight per

cent for the past six years.

The growth bas greatly ex-

panded the middle class among

Malaysia's population of 19

million and the new car will be

aimed mainly at them, industry

officials say.

bank had reported a slight decline of industrial output. The official INSEE statistic-Jarwani said. al body, which last reported on

industrial output for September, had said that industrial output had fallen by 0.3 per cent and manufactured output (excluding energy and food and agriculture) by one per

Gulf citizens to own shares."

Bahrain also gives limited access to foreign investors into its stock markets. But dealing is still limited to nationals in the other GCC states - Saudi Arabia, Oatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Oman reports stock HANOI (R) - Senior banking officials in communist Vietexchange

ABU DHABI (AFP) -- Economic reforms and a decision to allow foreign investors to trade inits shares have boosted activity in Oman's stock exchange to record levels, the exchange's director has said.

boom

Turnover in the Muscat Stock Market jumped by 66 per cent to 70 million Omani riyals (\$182 million) in the first 11 months of 1993 from 42 million riyals (\$109.2 million) during 1992, Mahmmoud Al

"It is the highest turnover since the exchange was opened in 1989," he said in a telephone interview from Muscat.

"This is because new companies in Oman are floating shares within the government privatisation programme, an economic upturn in the region and our decision to allow other

Oman decided this year to allow investors from other members of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation (GCC) to have between 25 and 49 per cent sharebolding in its companies, and it is planning to give access to others.

Vietnamese get lesson in capitalist markets

nam are getting a crash course in capitalist stock markets this month as the country prepares to open its first stock exchange in Ho Chi Minh City.

Officials from central bank branches in Hanoi, Haiphong

and Ho Chi Minh City and from the Export-Import Bank, the Agriculture Bank and other financial institutions are among those taking part, the Vietnam News Agency said Monday, "Another advanced capital markets and securities trading

programme is also scheduled to be held in Hanoi," the official agency said.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY DECEMBER 28, 1993 .

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation GENERAL TENDENCIES: Four strong oppositions from Venus, Mercury, Mars and the Sun to the Moon which goes Full in Cancer (Moonchild) today compatible companions. ald create muddled thinking

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) iu motion and don't get into a temper in the morning for tonigh finds you able to consider

and confusions but you can relax

this evening as the Moon trines

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You want to dispute some matter brought to your attention by a discontented person but ignore and later you can get into new ways to further business affairs. GEMUNI: (May 21 to June 21) You want to tell off an outside person in no uncertain terms but by holding back you find events unfold so you get the better of

worldly activities

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) In the morning, tasks seem to be at sixes and sevens but then you can afterwards get out with close associate and reach new agreements.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You are wise to put off making appointments for pleasure in the morning and would be wise to spend the whole day organising your work load for the future. VIRGO: (August 22 to Septem-

ber 22) Sidestep that potentially

upsetting argument at your residence and instead think of ways you can have a better time with

LIBRA: (September 23 to Dateber 22) Don't react to that alsosive note, message you receive in the morning but in the afternoon, evening get your home is ideal condition for the future. SCORPIO: (October 23 to

November 21) Avoid making any will and morning but then you can get into the various comm tions awaiting your attention ... SAGITTARIUS: (November 22

to December 21) Don't tell others see that you are truly discontented and unhappy this morning but all day and evening get into the practical side of your CAPRICORN: (December 22-to

January 20) Get away from wor-nes about which ynn can do nothing and put your personal affairs on a more well organised basis so you have things you

AOUARIUS: (January 21 to

Tebruary 19) Don't try to get beleaguered friend to solve your problems but rather discuss and work out with a close loved one who understands the situation. PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A purposeful friend who likes you is available to aid you where you most desire so discuss the situation with that person

and a demanding bigwig.

after he unveiled the name of

Peanuts

affluent workers.

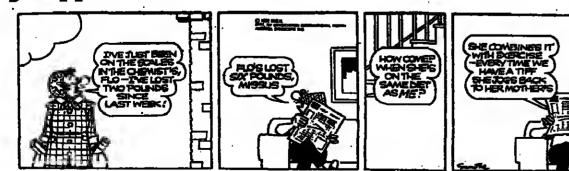








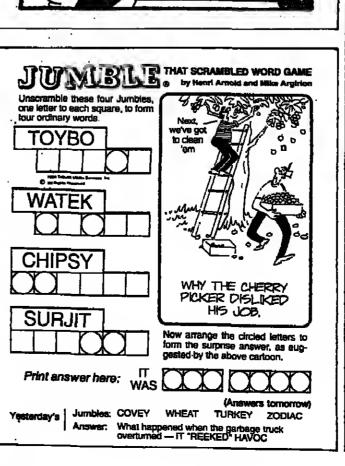
Andy Capp

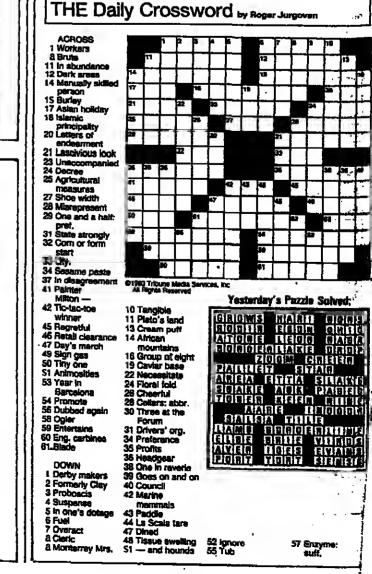


Mutt'n'Jeff









Ukrainian central bank fears 'super-hyper inflation'

September 1998 KIEV (R) - Ukraine could soon suffer from "superhyperinflation" if parliament blocks the introduction of tight A. American monetary policies, the head of the country's central bank has

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SCOPE

Victor Yushchenko told parliament that monthly inflation could soar to 90 per cent in December from 74 per cent in November unless Ukraine tightened monetary and credit

"Inflation could be 90 per cent in December or higher...if we do not reach agreement on tough measures and a budget for 1994," he said. "Otherwise, we will bave superhyperinflation next year. Only Serbia is in front of us," he

Ukranian inflation is still a long way behind war-torn Serbia. Former Yugoslavia, consisting of Serbia and Montenegro, is forecast to have 250,000 per cent inflation in

December.
The Ukrainian parliament The state of the s has opposed the government's latest proposals for economic reform, which combine market reforms with centralised controis over exports, production and hard currency transac-

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The government wants to speed up privatisation, tighten monetary policy, cut subsidies and liberalise the tax system.

Parliamentary deputies elected in the Soviet era agreed to issue a joint economic policy statement with the government last week on condition that the government agrees to add a list of objections on 42 separate policy issues.

The government has agreed to some parliament demands. Mr. Yushchenko said he and parliament had agreed to reopen the Kiev Currency Exchange which was closed last month as the government mulled new ways to finance its fuel imports.

He added that the heavilysubsidised agriculture sector must work without subsidies. But Deputy Prime Minister Volodymyr Demianov, in charge of agriculture, asked parliament to approve two trillion karbovanets (\$62 million) in subsidies to reverse falling

output.
"Without state support, and with the liberalisation of prices, agricultural production will fall by two-fold next year." Mr. Demianov said.

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World oil output unlikely to fall—MEES

NICOSIA (Agencies) - Saudi Arabia effectively remained firm in its opposition to emergency steps to help the oil market during last week's Riyadh summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said Monday. The authoritative newsletter said Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer, supported by Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. is understood to have argued that "in present circumstances a strong revival would require a cut of some 1.5 to 2.0 million

bpd (barrels per day). He said neither OPEC nor non-OPEC was included to make an effective or credible cutback of this size.

Sheikh Nazer was understood to have argued also that for OPEC to act alone, even if that were possible, would simply result in a further loss of market share to non-OPEC with no assurance of any real improvement in prices."

"He also reaffirmed in the strongest terms Saudi Arabia's continued rejection of a swing producer role." MEES said.

The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates. Qatar, Oman and Bahrain. Oil had been inserted at the last minute on the agenda of last week's annual GCC

The GCC rulers said they were willing to cut output "if all producing countries, both OPEC and non-OPEC, agree and abide by a comprehensive plan to reduce production in a balanced way.

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Ali Al Baghli, asked subsequently by Reuters whether this included Britain and Norway, said: "All producers." Britain and Norway have shown no interest in

MEES said some GCC optimists envisaged a scenario of non-OPEC pledges of 700.000 to one million b/d in cuts, a deal that could be

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rounded off at a January OPEC/non-OPEC ministerial meeting.

Some felt that this much would be necessary to qualify for matching OPEC cuts. But even non-OPEC coordi-

nator Oman felt that 100,000 to 200,000 b/d was the most that could be secured outside OPEC.

"As regards OPEC, therefore, from a practical point of view the situation remains essentially unchanged from the outcome of the Vienna conference at the end of November. MEES said - no cuts. keep the September agreement and not meet till March 25.

It did not rule out the GCC initiative bearing fruit but said non-OPEC was unlikely to respond in a way that was remotely appropriate.

MEES also said a proposal by Oman and Oatar was rejected whereby the big producers would lend them oil to enable them to reach the equivalent of a revenue target of \$15/barrel.

MEES said a call from Arab Gulf states for cooperation between OPEC and independent oil producers is unlikely to lead to cutbacks aimed at easing pressure on prices.

Market circles tend to dis-

miss the GCC plan as containing little of significance which might help to reverse the current ebb-tide for oil prices." said the authoritative Nicosia-

based oil newsletter. "The desired cutback contribution from the non-OPEC side would almost certainly prove incapable of realisa-

tion." it said.

.The six-nation GCC offered last Wednesday to cut output provided the independents agreed to do the same.

"Given the unlikelihood of anything remotely approaching an appropriate response from non-OPEC, it is difficult to discern any practical change of direction on the OPEC front at present," said MEES.



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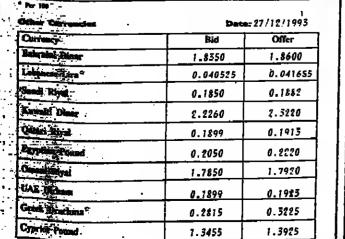
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1 hurt as IRA bomb shatters truce

BELFAST (R) - The IRA ended its three-day Christmas ceaselire early Monday with a bomb attack on a rural police station in which one person was believed to have been in-

Police said Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas exploded what was thought to be a mortar bomb in an attack on the police post at Fintona, 90 kilometres west of Belfast.

One person, a civilian, was thought to have been slightly injured and was taken to hospital, they said. Further details were not immediately available.

The device went off minutes after a three-day Christmas truce expired at midnight Sunday and was a clear rejection of calls by Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds that the guerrillas lay down their arms and join peace talks.

It was the first attack by IRA gunmen fighting to end British rule of Northern Ireland since they tried to ambush an army convoy in Belfast one week ago, lojuring one soldier.

Mr. Reynolds had urged the IRA and its political wing. Sinn Fein, 10 drop reservations about the text of the Anglo-Irish initiative, end the fighting and win a seat at new talks. "Peace is the first and essential priority. We should not let ourselves be sidetracked into the many questions that will have to be solved in the future," Mr. Reynolds said.

"Everything else can be settled in detailed discussion or negotiation later." he wrote in the Belfast Sunday Life. But Martin McGuinness, a

top Sinn Fein official. confirmed in a weekend interview that the organisation still wanted to discuss the package with Britain and Ireland. Mr. McGuinness told the

Sunday Press that it would be weeks before the IRA and Sinn Fein finalised their response and that talks with Brilain and Ireland were needed in the interim.

"We will be examining every sentence and comma (in the statement) trying to read between the lines. I see the docu-

ment not as a last step but as a first along the road," he said. The newspaper quoted him as saying Republicans felt the statement was an attempt to "dupe" the IRA into an openended ceasefire from which it would gain little.

Both Britain and Ireland have said publicly that there can be no negotiation over the statement until violence ends for good and Sinn Fein joins new political talks from which

it has hitherto been banned because of links with violence. At issue is the Dec. 15 state-

ment by Mr. Reynolds and British Prime Minister John Major, which lays down principles to govern future relations between Ireland and the province it partitioned seven decades ago.

The Downing Street Declaration, named after Mr. Major's official London residence. says people of Ireland and Northern Ireland should have a say in the future of their island but gives Protestants in the north a veto over any

Its first target is peace, so that nationalists from the Catholic minority and Protestants who want to stay British can work out new political structures to run their future.

Bot Republicans say they fear Sinn Fein would gain little at new talks because the declaration underwrites the rights of the Protestant majority to veto any moves towards uniting Ireland and the province. The IRA has been backed

to come out surrendering. It just won't wash," said one Republican sympathiser. Hundreds of IRA and Pro-

into a comer and is being asked

testant extremists have been released from top security jails for Christmas parole and are giving their views on the declaration to their leaders before returning to prison later this

7 hurt in London blast

Meanwhile, a suspected gas explosion rocked a central London district Monday, injuring at least seven people. some in a fast food restaurant, police

A spokesman said the blast occurred at about 9 a.m. in the basement of an empty office building opposite a McDo-nald's hamburger restaurant near Liverpool Street Railway Station on the East Side of the capital's financial district, the City.
"There's been an explosion.
There was ?

We think it's gas. There was a strong smell of gas," he said. The spokesman said at least three of the casualties were customers in the restaurant and another four were passersby. One person had head wounds, another had a broken

He said that while bomb squad officers were at the scene as a matter of routine. police were still treating the incident as a possible gas ex-

leg and the rest suffered minor

injuries such as cuts and



United Nations Secretary General Boutros Ghali Qichen prior to their meeting in Beijing (AFP (left) is greeted by Chinese Foreign Minister Qian photo)

Ghali urges patience in Korea crisis

BEIJING (Agencies) — U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali urged the world Monday to be parient in trying to solve the crisis over North Korea's alleged nuclear weapons prog-

The U.N. chief said that as he was not a military expert he had no way of evaluating reports that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency helieves Pyongyane probably already

has one or two nuclear bombs. But Dr. Ghali told a news conference at the end of an Asian tour that took him to Japan, both Koreas and Beijing that in both Seoul and Pyongyang there was the political will to solve the nuclear problem.

He said he thought three channels of diplomacy could provide a way out of the crisis: Talks between North Korea and the United States, between North Korea and the International Atomic Energy Agency and between North and South Korea,

more neeotiations we will be able to find a peaceful solu-tion." he said. "We need patience to solve the problems."

North and South Korea to try

"Through negotiations and

Dr. Ghali said there was good will on the part of both to resolve the nuclear issue and begin to address the fraught question of reunification.

"My own impression after many hours of talk...is that there is a political will to solve peacefully this problem and this is the positive element. he said.

"(There is) the political will to avoid an escalation. (and) the political will to find in a progressive way a coexistence and then a beginning of a unification between the South

and the North," he said. The nuclear crisis began when North Korea refused inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency, a U.N. body, of two sites that the United States believes are

used to develop nuclear arms. Dr. Ghali said he was unaware of any deadline for compliance, insisting that negotiations were the only way to resolve the standoff.

China, a long-time ally of Pyongyang and one of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council with the power of veto, has long counselled patience in dealing with North Korea.

"China favours a proper set-tlement of the issue through dialogues and consultations, instead of imposing pressure

and sanctions." the official Xinhua News Agency quoted Premier Li Peng as telling the

U.N. chief. South Korean Forcign Minister Han Sung-Joo said Monday that he saw the "beginning of the end" to the dispute over North Korea's nuclear ambitions, with a package deal in sight.

'A beginning of the end of the nuclear issue has started." Mr. Han was quoted hy Yonhap News Agency as telling journalists, adding that he was "more optimistic" than a few months ago that the row could be resolved through dia-

He said Pyongyang was willing to accept international inspections of its declared nuclear facilities, but without giving an impression that it was yielding to outside pressure.

North Korea also wants to resume talks with South Korea without losing face, he said. Resumption of an inter-Korean dialogue was one of the preconditions put forward

by Washington for reopening suspended high-level talks with Pyongyang to discuss improving ties.

Mr. Han said North Korea might find acceptable a kind of "package deal."

Bosnian army fails to take Serb area

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — The Bosnian capital was quiet Monday after heavy fighting in a Serb-held central district overnight in which the mainly Muslim Bosnian army apparently failed to retake territory, a U.N. spokesman said Monday.

The renewed overnight fighting came after a day of violence that left 17 injured and a Christmas truce in tat-

Only sporadic small arms fire could be heard Monday in the city, coated by an overnight snowfall, after heavy fighting in the central neighbourhood of Grbavica. A spokesman for the U.N.

that the overnight battles had apparently not led to any change in the front lines in Grbavica. Grbavica was the scene of

MOSCOW (R) — A five-day kidnap drama, in which four masked gunmen shuttled a

dozen children and four adult

bostages across south Russia in

a hijacked helicopter, ended

with the kidnappers' arrest

The hijackers fled the air-

craft but were seized after a

gunbattle with police. The hos-

tages were unharmed and most of a \$10 million ransom paid to

Interfax News Agency

quoted one of the hijackers as

saying he needed the money

for treatment for the killer

ITAR-TASS news agency

said the gunmen were from

Russia, Kazakhstan and Cen-

tral Asia. One was an air force

navigator sacked for being drunk.

planned their operation with

military precision, launched

their venture Thursday, bursting into a classroom in Ros-

The four, who apparently

the gunmen was recovered.

Monday.

disease AIDS.

Protection Force said Monday

fighting throughout Sunday and was the focus of clashes in the run up to Christmas between the Bosnian army and

Serb forces. Spokesman Idesbald Van Biesebrock said that the situanon in the Bosnian capital remained "tense and unstable." noting that the ceasefire agreed by the three sides in the Bosnian conflict — separatist Bosnian Serbs, Croats and the mainly-Muslim army - was

still not respected. The three factions had agreed to observe a truce from Dec. 23 to Jan. 3.

In the 24 hours up to 0700 GMT Monday, around 600 Serb shells pounded government positions in Sarajevo and residential areas, while the army retaliated with about 100 shells, U.N. military observers

In the rest of the country,

tov in southern Russia, firing

shots into the air and taking

teenagers and a teacher hos-

tage.
They commandeered a beli-

copter, loading it with explo-

sives and turning it into a flying

bomb. They repeatedly said

they wanted to fly to Iran,

although authorities in Tehran

promised to cooperate with Russia in securing the hos-

Izvestia newspaper, quoting

officers from Russia's elite

anti-terrorist group, said the'

choice of a helicopter had

posed a series of problems for

security forces who had been

trained to seize airplanes and

bostages flew in stages to the

spa town of Mineralniye Vody 400 kilometres southeast of

There they demanded a ran-

som of \$10 million, which was

paid Friday. The kidnappers then re-

The kidnappers and their

tages' release.

not belicopters.

Rostov.

Russian kidnap drama ends; gunmen seized

tension was also running high in Vitez, in central Bosnia and in the southern capital of Mos-

Croatian Radio Sunday said Muslims shelled Croat forces around Vitez. Bosnian radio said Croats fired tank rounds on Bosnian army positions outside the central Bosnian town of Gornji Vakuf.

Six civilians were wounded in the Muslim enclave of Maglaj Sunday in northern Bosnia. Britain Monday warned the warring parties in Bosnia that its troops would not stay there

indefinitely and urged the

groups to make peace.

Those doing the fighting cannot expect we will be doing that for ever, because if they believe we are going to do it for ever then they lose the incentive actually to reach an agreement," Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said.

leased seven of the schoolchil-

dren and their teacher. Their

last two schoolboy captives and

a bus driver taken hostage in

Rostov were freed Sunday,

just before the beliconter left

Makhachkala.

Mineralniye Vody for

But the belicopter, which

news agencies said was tailed

by the anti-terrorist unit of the

elite Spetsnaz Force, made an

unexpected stop on the out-

skirts of the town, the capital

of Russia's semi-autonomous

The gunmen disabled the

An Interior Ministry spokes-

man said the two pilots, who

later flew the craft on to

RIA news agency quoted the

Interior Ministry as saying the

hijackers managed to elude the

elite forces tailing their heli-

copter for the crucial 30 mi-

nutes they needed to escape.

But their freedom was short-

lived. Two hijackers were

Makhachkala, were safe.

Republic of Dagestan.

radio and fled.

tion Radio, said Britain was committed to helping keep Bosnian civilians alive during the winter and would escort humanitarian aid convoys for as long as this was useful. "We do not want them to believe that indefinitely there is going to be a European army

Mr. Hurd, in an interview on

British Broadcasting Corpora-

effort," he said. No decision had yet been made to pull out the more than 2.000 British troops in Bosnia. "We have taken noi decision but it should not be assumed that this commitment will go on year after year after year."

protecting a humanitarian

Mr. Hurd reiterated Britain's position that it was up to the warring Serb, Croatian and Muslim parties in Bosnia to reach a political settlement to end the fighting and that no solution could be imposed

arrested overnight after a brief

gunbattle with authorities. The

other two were seized without

a struggle sbortly afterwards. ITAR-TASS news agency

said \$6.5 million was recovered

when two of the gunmen were

arrested. Interfax said more

money was recovered when the

said the hijackers' leader was a

criminal nicknamed Marat. He

lived in Bisbkek, capital of the

former Soviet Republic of Kyr-

students, bad no criminal re-

TASS, quoting the hijack leader, said the gunmen had

thrown some of the loot out of

the helicopter's open door as

they flew over Russia's separ-

atist north Caucasiao region of

helicopter would not be shot at

from the ground," TASS said.

"He said they did this so the

Chechnya.

The others, including two

gyzstan in Central Asia.

Commonwealth Television

other two were seized.

Ramos orders hunt for church bombers

DAVAO, Philippines (R) ---President Fidel Ramos, vowing not to allow extremists wreck his peace efforts. Monday ordered a hunt for attackers who lobbed grenades into a Philippine cathedral, killing six worshippers.

Eight hours after the Sunday evening attack in Davao City. suspectea Christian militants retaliated by firing two grenades at a Muslim Mosque on the city's outskirts. One exploded but there were no

casualties, police said. More than 130 worshippers among thousands in the crowded cathedral for Sunday's main evening mass were injured.

In Manila, Mr. Ramos ordered the military to tighten security following the attack. which coincided with a ceasefire and peace talks between his government and Muslim separatists.

'1 will not allow extremists or terrorists to disrupt the peace of our communities just like that, especially during the holiday season, where we have in fact worked out the suspension of offensive military operations," he told a news conference.

Police have linked a Muslim fundamentalist group to kidnappings and bombings of pub-lic buildings and religious sites

in mindanao in the past year. But Mr. Ramos said investigators had not yet pinpointed who was responsible for the Davao attack.

Police said one grenade was thrown by a short-haired woman accompanied by a bearded man. Another was tossed by a man in his twenties. while a third was thought to have been thrown by someone on guard outside the building. A fourth device failed to explode.

TOKYO (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said Monday he was willing to make further compromises to win approval of crucial political reform bills. The government will respect any agreement in this committee," he told the Upper House

forms. "It is a matter of course that we respect upper house deli-berations." he said, indicating he was ready for a deal with

Last Friday, Mr. Hosokawa apologised to the nation for failing to keep his promise that the bills. which include new

anti-corruption measures. would become law by the end of this year.

He said then that he would seek parliamentary approval of the bills by late January, the end of the current 135-day session.

Before the bills cleared the lower house in November, Mr. Hosokawa gave in to demands by the opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and altered the composition of the

new chamber. His original plan, approved by his coalition in August, had through proportional repremember body. The LDP wanted 300 in the districts and 171 in the proportional list for a 471-member

assembly. Mr. Hosokawa proposed a new formula — 276 in the single-seat constituen-cies and 224 from the proportional list - which passed the lower house. Mr. Hosokawa also

January but his comments failed to convince the stock market. The key Nikkei Index fell by about 400 points Mon-

Hosokawa eyes compromise in reform

Committee on Political Re-

the opposition.

250 seats chosen from singleseat districts and another 250 announced Friday that steps to boost the troubled economy would be announced in mid-

day morning to below the psychologically important level of 17,000.

electoral districts and stricter sentation for a new 500-Russians learn lessons of extravagance

MOSCOW (AFP) — Half a metre tall and no beauty, she comes with a price tag that would horrify most shoppers searching for a doll to brighten a child's Christmas. But paying no less than \$1,000 for a toy has not

fazed everyone here. "They've just come in. We've sold two already," the gumchewing shop assistant said of the German-made dolls.

'To whom? To ordinary people, to Russians." she added before brushing off a request to wrap a \$65 stuffed toy because of its low price.
While much of the Western world recovers

from its surfeit of celebration over Christmas. Russia is just warming up for its holidays, with Grandfather Frost due to make his rounds handing out gifts on Dec. 31. At Boys And Girls, a toy store with an English

name and hefty price tags, shoppers are tempted by such gewgaws as a petrol-engined car for children priced at \$7,900.

"A Russian customer bought one this month," the assistant said. Around Moscow at shops like this, a festive

extravagance has erupted in the wintry grey of the city, which as always is unrelieved by Christmas lights or decorations. Moscow's pavements and streets have; howev-

er. been adorned - with ice that has transformed them into skating rinks. This year the city council has not de-iced the roads with the result that hospitals are seeing twice the number of broken arms and legs than last year.

For some, an icy pavement is only a slight obstacle between luxury imported cars and expensive hard currency shops such as Petrovka, the Sadko Arcade or the Gum Department Store.

"I've never had truffles, but I hear they're good," said a man in his thirties pushing a trolley through a hard-currency supermarket.

Without a thought for the prices, be began loading the cart with such fare as kumquats at \$60 for a tiny box of the fruit and French champagne ar \$40 a bottle.

Afterwards he was planning a trip to the newly-opened branch of Hediard, the luxury Paris foodstore that has set up in the city centre. In the cakeshop of the Petrovka store, where a slice of gateau costs about half the minimum wage, a man from the Caucasus seated with a friend pays the check with a wad of hundred

dollar bills pulled casually from his pocket. While Moscow's nouveau riche splash out sums that would keep Russian families for months, even the struggling middle classes are learning to follow the consumerist frenzy that has taken over the holiday in much of the world.

From toys to beauty products, television stations have been chiming out the names of brands long famous in the West.

This year when grandfather Frost visits, many Russian girls will be looking forward to their dream gift — a barbie doll complete with boyfriend Ken and all the necessary accessories. Priced from \$48 in kiosk shops across Moscow.

Philippine rebeis play Robin Hood

MANILA (AP) -- Communist rebels Monday hijacked a truckload of the at gunpoint and distributed the supplies to poor families in Manila, police said. Maj. Rodolfo Rival said seven armed men, who introduced themselves as the Alex Boncayao Brigade, flagged down the driver of the truck on Juan Luna Street and forced him to drive to "Smokey Mountain." The city's notorious garbage dump where thousands of squatters live. The rebels distributed the 500 sacks of rice to hundreds of bauons bomtawa odw aronau the vehicle about 10 a.m. (0200) GMT). Maj. Rival said. The rebels fled and when police. came to investigate, the squatters refused to cooperate. The brighte is a breakaway faction of the Communist Party of the Philippines, which celebrated its 25th anniversary Sunday

Dietrich's grave desecrated in Berlin

BERLIN (AP) - Vandals desecrated the Berlin grave of movie star Marlene Dietrich with leces and painted the words "slut in fur" in German on the headstone, police said Sunday, Dietrich died on May n. 1992, in Paris at age 90 and was buried at Berlin's fridenau Cemeters at her wish. Monday is her birthday. The movie star turned her back on Nazi Germany in the 1938s and became a U.S. citizen in 1939. She sang for American troops as they fought her countrymen. Many Germans branded her a traitor. Dietneh was booed -and applauded - during a 1960 concert tour and vowed never to return to Germany. Later she said she wanted to be buried next to bet mother.

Bardot protests hotel's dolphin aquarium

PARIS (AP) - Brigitte Bardot is upset that a hotel in French Polynesia plans to fill an aquarium with delphins, but the government says it can't do anything about it. The former sex kitten, who now runs a foundation in her name to defend animal rights, said she, was "firmly opposed" to plant". to put up to a dozen dolphins in an aquarium at the Beachcomber Hotel in Moores, Tahiti. Her foundation said Miss Bardot asked Environment Minister Michel Barnier to "urgently prohibit the capture of these dolphins as well as the scandalous opening of the dolphinarium." She urged "seeing dolphins and whales that swim freely in the rich waters of Polynesia," a foundation communique said. Mr. Barnier responded that he "regrets the capture of wild animals...especially of species that are increasingly cndangered." But mainland : French laws on animal protection do not apply to overseas territories, he said in a communique. The minister promised to ask officials in the territories to adopt those regulations.

Support mounts for actress over Mandela kiss

NEW DELHI (AFP) -- Indian

movie stars and women's

groups are rallying around a top activist-actress after Islamic hardliners denounced her for giving South African leader Nelson Mandela a kiss in public. Support for Shabana Azmi, a Muslim, has mounted after a leader of India's Muslim community accused her of "un-Islamic behaviour" for kissing Mr. Mandela on the cheek during an awards ceremony in Cape Town on Dec. I. 'The action is against Islamic Law wherein no female is allowed to even interact openly with a male." said Akbar Ahmad, who demanded a public apology from the actress and warned of a possible boycott of her movies. Film stars and women activists immediately rose to her defence, calling the spontaneous kiss an innocent peck on the cheek for someone for whom Shahana has great admiration. "Shahana is the free spirit of a free country." said Dev Anand, one of India's top movie stars. "There was no feeling of lust. It was just admiration for a man." Zeenst Aman, who is also a Muslim and a former queen of the Hindi film world, added: "We should be proud that someone from our country was called upon to honour Nelson Mandela." Shabana, who lives in Bombay, was not available for comment. But her husband, writer Javed Akhtar, told AFP by telephone: The whole thing is so ridiculous that it. doesn't deserve comment."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Clinton to visit Russia Jan. 12-15

MOSCOW (R) - U.S. President Bill Clinton will visit Russia from Jan. 12-15, the press service of Russian President Boris Yeltsin announced Monday. A statement said the two leaders would discuss bilateral relations, control over nuclear arms and regional conflicts. It is the second summit meeting between the two leaders. They met in Vancouver earlier this year, although Mr. Yelisin also attended a summit of the leaders of the Group of Seven industrial countries in Tokyo in July. Mr. Clinton's visit starts one day after the opening of the new Russian parliament, elected on Dec. 12.

Armenian plane crash kills 36

YEREVAN (R) - Thirty one passengers and five crew members died when their plane crashed in western Armenia. near the frontier with Turkey, an Armenian government spokesman said Monday. The plane, from the southern Russian city of Krasnodar, crashed late Sunday when landing in the Armenian town of Gyumri. formerly known as Leninakan, spokesman Vladimir Manoyan said. He said the accident was probably caused by thick fog on the runway. A eovernment commission had been set up to investigate the crash. The type of plane which crashed was not clear. Mr. Manovan said it was an AN-24 passenger plane, though a spokesman for Russia's state committee for emergencies earlier identified it as an AN-26 transport plane with 11 people

and two passenger cars aboard. 68 die in S. Africa Christmas violence

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - At least 68 people were killed in political, criminal and factional violence across South Africa over the Christmas weekend, according to police reports Monday. Most of the political violence, police said, was centered in the powderkeg black townships of Katlehong. Kwathema and Daveyton east of here, where II people were shot, hacked, stahhed and hurnt to death at the weekend. Three policemen, two in Transvaul Province and one in Cape Province, were murdered in separate attacks, hringing to 249 the number of policemen killed in South Africa this year. Most

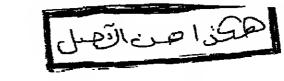
of the bloodshed occurred in Natat province, where police reported 39 murders, including 11 people who were killed in a faction fight near Mtubatuba. in the far north of the province. Of the other killings, police spokesman Major Bala Naidoo said some were crime and robhery-related while others appeared to be linked to political violence in black townships and rural areas in various purts of the province. In the Cape Town area, police said 16 people were murdered over the Christmas weekend and around 3/11 assaulted.

Tajikistan appoints new premier

DUSHANBE (R) - Parliament in the former Soviet Republic of Tajikistan has appointed Abdujalil Samadov as prime minister to replace Abdumalik Ahdulujanov, who resigned earlier this month. Mr. Samadov, a supporter of a market economy, was previously deputy prime minister. Mr. Abdulajanov had faced increasing pressure because of his country's economic problems. He has since been appointed acting Tajik ambassador to Russia. Mr. Abdulajanov, 46, a successful businessman, retained his post as cahinet chief when ex-Communists came to power last year after a bloody civil war against Muslim radicals. The impoverished Central Asian country is still reeling in the aftermath of the conflict, which ruined its economy, thousands of refugees fled into neighbouring Afghanistan to escape the fighting.

Bhutto arrives in China

BELIING (AFP) - Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto arrived here Monday at the start of a trip to China and North Korea, during which she is expected to offer to mediate in Pyongyang and Washington's nucleur dispute. Chinese Premier Li Peng held a welcoming ceremony in the Great Hall of the People for his guest - on her first trip here since her party's victory in October elections - after which the two leaders entered talks. Mr. Li is to host a dinner Monday evening in honour of Ms. Bhutto, who is accompanied by her husband Asif Ali Zardari. Foreign Minister Sardar Assef Ali. Defence Minister Aftab Shahban Mirani and financial adviser V. A. Jafery. Ms. Bhutto is also due to meet President Jiang Zemin and other senior officials, in addition to a group of Chinese businessmen.



ROME (R) - Injured AC Milan and Netherlands striker Marco Van Basten has said he hopes to return to action next March but warned he would not take part in the World Cup unless he had proved his fitness at club level.

"I must try to gradually return to playing, little by little, in March at least," Van Basten was quoted as saying in the Gazzetta Dello Sport Monday. "I can't concentrate on the

World Cup without having played for Milan. You need to have a proper test tobe called up for the national team you need to be firing on all cylinders for your cinb," he said.

The three-times European Footballer of the Year played just three matches in 1993, making a short-lived comeback from an ankle operation before requiring fresh surgery.

Doctors have ordered him to.

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rest until the end of February but there is a fear he may need yet another operation on his damaged ankle and the player has admitted he is battling to save his career. His absence from the World

Dutch squad already hit by the decision of Johan Cruyff not to coach the side during the tournament. Barcelona coach Cruyff could not agree personal terms with the Dutch Soccer Associa-

Cup in the United States in

June would badly hamper a

"It's a real shame for soccer because people enjoy watching the sort of game Cruyff plays,". Van Basten said.

But Van Basten also praised



Marco Van Basten

Dick Advocate, who will lead the Netherlands in the finals, and was optimistic about his

"The Netherlands have a strong squad, a good set-up. We must be among the five or six favourites."

Van Basten aims for March comeback | Campbell scores hat-trick in 4-0 Arsenal win

LONDON (Agencies) — Kevin Campbell scored a hattrick to shatter Swindon's hopes of climbing from the bottom of the English Premier League for the first time this season as Arsenal cruised to an

easy 4-0 away win Monday. England striker Ian Wright scored Arsenal's fourth goal in the final minute with a superb 35-metre chip shot over goalkeeper Fraser Digby.

Wright, who had been booked earlier for a retaliatory foul on Swindon substitute Nicky Summerbee, had a role in all Campbell's goals. Swindon were outplayed

from start to finish as Arsenal cut through their defence time Campbell, chosen ahead of

England's Paul Merson, had already missed two chances befure he converted Wright's pass from four metres in the 19th minute after the England striker latched on to Ray Parlour's pass and tricked his way into the area Seven minutes later Wright

dispossessed Paul Bodin on the halfway line and sent Campbell racing clear to score the second with a crisp finish.

Arsenal might have at least doubled their advantage before the interval but for a string of controversial offside decisions that had manager George Graham leaping from the bench in frustration.

Swindon, though, never showed the quality to threaten a comeback in the second half and Parlour and Eddie McGoldrick both went close before Wright started the move which finished with Campbell completing his second hat-trick of the season with a tap-in from Parlour's 68th minute right-

wing cross. Wright, with just seconds left, tried his luck and squeezed the ball in under the crossbar to leave Digby grop-

ing thin air. The win lifted Arsenal to fourth place in the table but still 16 points behind runaway leaders Manchester United, whn drew 1-1 at home to

Blackhurn Rovers Sunday. Southampton eased their English premiership relegation worries and added to Chelsea's with a 3-1 home win over the London club Monday.

Second-half goals from Northern Ireland international Iain Dowie and Frankie Bennett saw the clubs swap places and Chelsea drop to one off the bottom after Mark Stein had cancelled out Tommy Widdrington's opener for

Glen Hoddle's side, watched Monday by their most famous fan in Prime Minister John Major, have now taken just two points from their last 33 and are without an away win in

22 matches, equalling their re-cord of 40 years ago. The Saints took the lead in the 29th minute when Wid-drington stabbed home a free kick from six vards for his first goal for the club.

However, on the strike of half time Chelsea equalised when a hlunder by Francis Benali allowed Stein to race through and lob over Dave Beasant for his first goal in eight matches since his 1.5 million-pound move from Stoke.

Chelsea failed to capitalise and Southampton regained the lead in the 66th minute when Paul Allen raced to the by-line and pulled the ball back for Dowie to slot home from close range and end a 17-game drought.
Two minutes from time

Southampton made sure of the points as Dowie nodded on for substitute Bennett to race clear and smash home a rising shot from 10 yards to register Southampton's first win in six

Aston Villa's home game with Manchester City was postponed because of a frozen pitch. A similar complaint forced three Scottish premier games to be called off at Kilmarnock, Motherwell and

On Sunday, Manchester United midfielder Paul Ince fired an 88th minute equaliser as the English Premier League champions and leaders escaped with a 1-1 draw against Blackburn at Old Trafford Sunday.

United were in jeopardy of only their second defeat in 22 league games this season and their first at home in all competitions for 14 months when England international ince came to the rescue. Ince's goal cancelled out a

15th minute strike by forward Kevin Gallacher, and put United 13 points ahead of secondplaced Leeds. Third-placed Blackburn are 14 points off the pace with a game in hand. The Christmas holiday

league programme had opened earlier in the day with Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar producing a brilliant display to enable his side to salvage a 0-0 draw at Sheffield

Midfielder John Williams made the first goal and scored the second as Coventry beat Wimbledon 2-1 away in the

other Premier League fixture. United's equaliser came during a tense climax in which the ritle holders gambled by sending everyone, including their Denmark keeper Peter Schmeichel, forward for a Lee Sharpe corner.

Schmerchel failed to make contact, Se Gary Pallister, headed goalwards and Brian McClair forced a reflex save from Tim Flowers, only for Ince to hook home the re-

bound inside the goalbox.

Midfieldel David Batty was
the architect of the Blackburn. goal that stunned the Old Traf-ford fans, wriggling past a chal-lenge from Mark Hughes to find Gallacher, who was racing down the right.

Gallacher took the ball through the legs of Pallister and then beat skipper Steve, Bruce as he ran into the box. Schmeichel raced off his line but Gallacher coolly clipped the ball over his diving body and into the net.

United were well below their. best and, although they step- ... ped up the pace after halftime.-. Flowers did not have to make his first real save of the game. until the 78th minute when he dived to touch away a 25-metre shot by Wales forward Ryan =

BRIEF **NEWS IN**

Morocco ask Hidalgo for help

RABAT (AFP) - Former French National manager Michel Hidalgo has been asked to help Morocco's World Cup campaign. Hidalgo guided France to the 1984 European Championship and the 1982 World Cup semifinals before going to manage Olympique Marseille wheo Bernard Tapie bought the clnb. He set op as a consultant three years ago. Abdellah Blinda, who steered Morocco through the African qualifying competition, would stay on as coach in charge of team selection. Hidalgo would advise on the opposition and tactics. He has yet to make up his mind. Morocco are in the same preliminary round ground as Belgium, Holland and Saudi Arabia. They play Belgium and Holland in Orlando and the Saudis in New York.»

Samaranch plans to visit Sarajevo

ROME (R) - International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch has confirmed he plans to visit the shattered Olympic City of Sarajevo next year. Samaranch told the Gazzetta Dello Sport daily he intended to site of the 1984 Winter Olym after the games in Lillehammer next February. "After Lillehammer I will go to Sarajevo in person: I want to reunite the members of the organising committee (from 1984). A third Serbs, a third Croats and a third Muslims," be was quoted as saying Monday.

Mabbutt's career in jeopardy

LONDON (AFP) - The career of former England defender Gary Mabbutt is in danger following the horrific facial injuries he suffered in a challenge by Wimbledon striker John Fashanu last month. The Tottenham captain, who bas returned to light training, must undergo two more operations to have any chance of making a comeback. He needs to have the stee plate removed that has been inserted over bis injured right eye and further corrective surgery is required on his eye socket. That plate has to come out for Gary to bave any chance of playing again," Spurs manager Ossie Ardiles told Monday's Daily Mirror newspaper.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

PUNISHING THE INNOCENT

. AK 1083 KQ86 EAST #J9742 4Q5 V48 VA10 SOUTH VKJ9865

● 10 9 7 2 The bidding: North East South West 2 V Pass Pass Pass 20 Opening lead: Ace of O
In a perfect world the guilty
would be punished and the innocent
admired. Unfortunately, that is the

case neither in life nor at the bridge Best's overcall of two diamonds would be made by every player we know, yet all it succeeded in doing was making declarer's life easier. Note North's decision to bid four hearts, thereby taking the strain off partner. There had to be play for game no matter how weak South's

East-West vulnerable. North free bid at the two-level. In response to partner's overcall, West lad the ace of diamonds and declarer now had a relatively smooth passage. East won the trump switch with the ace and exit-ed with a trump. Declarer won, cashed the king of diamonds for a club discard and the ace and king of spades and ruffed a spade. When that suit could not be established declarer led a club to the king. East was forced to win with the ace and had to solve declarer's problem by returning a club or yielding a ruff-

shifting to a club at trick two would allow declarer to make the forcing out the ace of trumps, draw-ing trumps and testing the spades, declarer cashes the king of diaands and then runs all his trumps. To guard against dummy's ten of spedes, West must keep a spede and let go a club, so declarer knows the jack of clubs will drop under the

West might lead a club. Now East can win the ace and return a nondecan will the act and to West's ace for the lead of another club. Declarer must guess the position immediately to guess the position implement the contract.

Aamodt, Mader rejoin battle in downhill

MILAN (R) - Ali-rounders Kjetil-Andre Aamodt and Guenther Mader renew their battle for top spot in the World Cup as the men's Alpine skiers return to action after a short Christmas break with a dow-nhill in Bormio, Italy, Wednes-

Norway's Aamodt currently tops the overall standings with points while Austria's Mader is 30 points back in third place. Italian Alberto Tomba separates them but does not race the downhill.

The skiers are sure to have mixed feelings about the first race during the Christmas holi-day period for almost a decade: Aamodt and his compatriots having just a couple of days at bome in Norway aftet last Wednesday's super-G in Lech, Austria.

North American speedmen such as A.J. Kitt of the United States fared worse they spent the festive season in Europe as time did not permit them to cross the Atlantic.

The International Ski Federation (FIS) insisted on holding a race this week as they felt it would help improve the profile of the sport: Bormio in the northern region of Lombardy stepped in when Laax, Switzerland, had problems finding accommodation for the World Cup circuit during the peak

It is the first time the 10p racers have returned to Bormio since the 1985 World Championships — attempts to stage other races being hit by a lack of snow.

That will not be a problem this year as the Italian Alps had a white Christmas and the downhillers will face a steep and very demanding course in what looks likely to be another unpredictable contest.

The two previous downhills of the season were staged in the Italian resort of Val Gardena earlier this month.

Markus Foser of Liechtenstein created a sensation by winning the first from start number 66 while Olympic downhill champion Patrick Ortlieb of Austria restored order by

claiming the second.

Ortlieb would be among the favourites here but has been suffering from a heavy bout of influenza, spending Christmas wrapped up in bed.

Russian players renew call for sacking trainer

MOSCOW (R) - Leading Russian players whose team have reached next year's World Cup finals in the United States have renewed their call for national trainer Pavel Sadyrin to be sacked.

"If Sadyrin is not removed, the Russian national team will be unable to prepare for the championships properly," Russia's captain Igor Shalimov told a news conference Satur-

Shalimov, who plays for Itahan league Internazionale, said Sadyrin's training methods were from "the stone age" and the training conditions for the national side were lamentable. The revolt exploded earlier

this month when 14 players . who included most of a large foreign-based contingent, called for Sadyrin to be dismissed following a 1-0 World Cup qualifyiog match defeat in

Seven of the players were at the news conference, including five who flew to Moscow from abroad especially to attend. Shalimov said Sadyrin must be replaced by former Soviet

national coach Anatoly Byshovets, who was sacked in 1992 after his side flopped at the European Championships in Sweden.

"We do not refuse to play

laward to Buddhist master

for the Russian national squad. We refuse to play in the team headed by Pavel Sadyrin," Shalimov said. "Only with Byshovets the Russian team has a chance.

Sadyrin and his supporter, Vyacheslav Koloskov, head of Russia's Soccer Federation, did not attend the news confer-

But Alexander Tukmanov representing the federation, said Sadyrin would stay and indicated the rebel players could be dropped from the

Sbamil Tarpischev, President Boris Yeltsin's adviser oo sport, indicated he backed the rebel players. "We-must think first of all

about Rossia, our soccer fans and their favourite players,' Other leading players who signed the letter wree Benfica

chester United midfielder Andrei Kanchelskin and Karlsruhe striker Serger Kiryakov. Byshovets has stayed out of the row. Recent press reports sayt be has been approached by Seoul to train World Cap

finalists South Korea. Russia bave been drawn with Brazil, Cameroon and Sweden in Group B for the

first stage of the 1994 finals. Baggio dedicated European

ROME (R) - Newly-crowned European Footballer of the Year Roberto Baggio has dedicated his award to the leader of a Japanese lay Buddhist orga-

nisation. "I dedicate it to Daisaku Ikeda, my master, the president of Soka Gakkai, the Buddhist school which I follow," Baggio said in an interview in Monday's Gazetta De-

llo Sport.

from FIFA last week. He was an easy winner in the annual poll of European sports journalists conducted by the

The pony-tailed Baggio con-verted to Buddhist five years

Baggio, of Juventus and Itav. was awarded the prestigious European title Sunday to add to the world title he received

veckly France Football.

ago. He said he met Ikeda in Japanlast summer, describing the meeting as "very impor-

Soka Gakkai, the lay affili-

ate of a Bnddhist community set up in the 13th century, backs Japan's Komeito Political Party.

Ikeda has headed Soka Gakkai since 1960. Since then it has established schools, colleges and one of Japan's largest art

Baggio has reached the top despite rupturing cruciate ligaments in his knee in 1985 when playing for third division Vicenza, an injury which threatened to put a premature end to his career.

The Juventus attacker said he has to perform special exercises to prevent further injury problems.

"For eight years I've had to work with weights several times per week, two bours per sessin, to maintain the muscle tone at its maximum. The knee doesn't give me problems but the tendon does — If I lose a bit of tone there is a high risk of injury," Baggio said.

Tel.: 634144

Beijing leads Olympic hopefuls

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AFP) - Beijing heads a list of around 15 cities from 11 countries interested in staging the 2004 Olympic Games, it was revealed here Friday. Beijing lost out to Sydney for the 2000 showpiece but an International Olympic Committee (IOC) weekly revue revealed the city looked set to try again. No official bids have yet been received. The IOC deadline is March 1, 1996, with the choice made in 1997. Other interested cities, according to the publication, include Istanbul, Cairo, Sevilla, Buenos Aires and Stockholm. A joint bid could also be put in by South Africa's Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban.

Gales sink one yacht, force 14 to retire in Sydney-to-Hobart race

SYDNEY (R) - Gale force winds and mountainous seas Monday took their toll on the Sydney-to-Hobart race, sinking one yacht and forcing 14 others to retire with torn sails and broken gear.

The Australian entry Clwyd became the first yacht to sink in the 49 year history of the race after she hit a submerged object which ripped off het

keel and left a gaping bole. The seven crew members had less than five minutes to send out a radio distress call and take to their liferaft before the 10.8 metre (35 feet) yacht filled with water and turned turtle off the New South Wales

south coast. "There was a big bang and about five minutes later we found her filling up, so we went into the abandon ship mode," said skipper Craig Escott, 33.

"We sent out a distress call and as we jumped into the inflated liferaft sent off flares," Escott said via a radiotelephone from the official race vessel Young Endeavour.

Four yachts which sighted the flared motored towards the Clwyd and the crew ere picked up from their liferaft about 60 miles eas tof Bateman's Bay by another racing yacht, Nynja Go, and later transferred to Young Endeavour.

The Clwyd was making her maiden Sydney-to-Hobart Race.

Race leader Brindabella, in her first real test of rough ocean racing, was still on target to break the 18-year race re-cord as she entered hase strait ate Monday. However, race weather fore-

casters said she was heading straight into 30 to 40 knot headwinds which were whipping up four to five metre (12 to 15 fett) waves. "She is obviously doing well

to be so far ahead," said a race official. "Sbe is currently on target but with the conditions break.

A race sponsor is offering Australian dollars 100,000 (\$60,000) to the yacht breaking the record of two days 14 bours 36 minutes and 56 seconds set by American Maxi Ketch Kialoa in 1975. Among the 14 forced to re-

tire Monday were the second placed American sloop Cassioneia, because of torn sails, and third placed pocket maxi Amazon due to broken gear. A total of 16 yachts out of the starting fleet of 100 have now retired since the race began Sunday.

Currently in second place is: Australian maxi Ragamuffin, a. three time line honours winner of the 630-nautical mile race. about 37 miles behind Brin-

Third is pocket maxi Hammet of Queensland, fourth wild thing and ffith Harte-Mineral Waters.

The Bureau of Meteorology: in Hohart has issued a gale warning fot waters of Tasmania's east coast for the next two blow into the face of the fleet

from the south and south-west... The centre of the depression system causing the bad weather is located in Bass Strait, directly in the fleet's path.

Anand held to draw in rebel chess

GRONINGEN, Netherlands (R) - Indian grandmaster Vishwanathan Anand was unexpectedly held to a draw by Latvia's Alexey Shirov Sunday in the 230,000 Professional Chess Association (PCA) qualifying tournament.

"He surprised me with his choice of opening, a Pirc defence," said the 24-year-old Indian, who retained the overall lead by a slender balf-point margin after seven rounds.

Anand, playing with the white pieces, offered the draw after only 16 moves and 90 minutes' play and Shirov, ranked sixth in the world, three places below him, accepted immediately.

"It was just one of those days," Anand said. "Still, I had just won three games in a row and I knew it couldn't go on for ever."

He reacted strongly to a suggestion that he had been lucky in some of his games," Deep blue," the world's strongest chessplaying compu-ter, bas indicated that he should have lost bis sixth round game to Joel Benjamin of the United States.

But Anand said: "I analysed the move Deep blue suggested but it is not true that it is a forced win for Benjamin. I don't believe it.' Experts in Groningen said

the position under dispute was too complex to know whether man or machine was correct. Anand, the world's fastest grandmaster, has scored five and a half points from his seven games in the PCA tournament, the first stage in

finding a challenger for the

world's top-ranked playet,

Russia's Garry Kasparov. Half-a-point behind are 20vear-old Russian Sergei Tiviakov, who played an exciting draw against Gat Kamsky of the United States, and American Boris Gulko, 46, who outlasted Ukrainian Aleksandar Belyavasky in a sixhour marathon.

Eight players, including

Kamsky and England's ? Michael Adams, are tied for fourth place a full point behind Anand and, with four rounds still to play, could yet chal-

lenge for first place. Kaparov is no longer the official world champion. He: formed the PCA after being the auspices of the World Chess Foundation.

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U.N. gives priority to Gulf crisis claims related to death, injuries

Upto \$5m to be paid in April; other claims in July

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - A U.N. compensation fund is expected to review more than 1,000 claims related to death and injury resulting from the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and plans to disburse between \$3 million and \$5 million in April. The bulk of claims related to fatalities and injuries are from Kuwait and Jordan, according to U.N. officials.

By July, the special U.N. compensation commission expects to begin settling claims worth between \$100 million and \$200 million in claims related to personal losses by displacement and in

Jordanians bave filed more than 60,000 claims with the Geneva-based commission; several bundreds of them are directly related to death and

The Jordanian claims total more than \$3 billion. The claims are categorised as A. B and C for individuals who were forced to flee from Kuwait or Iraq as a result of the invasion, for those wbo suffered death or serious injury, and for individual losses of property upto \$100,000. Most of the Jordanian claims fall under category A.

A three-member commission, set up under U.N. Security Council Resolution 692 of 1991, has begun reviewing the claims it has received, said Carlos Alzamora, executive secretary of

The findings and recom-

CAIRO (Agencies) — Militants, renewing their campaign

against Western toorists in

Egypt, threw bombs at a tour

bus Monday and wounded 16

people, half of them visitors

were Egyptian bystanders,

caught up in the violence.

The eight others wounded

Witnesses said two men in

their late teens threw two

bombs at about 8:30 a.m.

(0630GMT) as the bus was

beaded for the Coptic Hanging

Church, a popular tourist site.

The men opened fire with pis-

tols while running away, shout-

ing to people to "keep away."
Two of the Austrian victims

were wounded seriously, said

Dr. Ahmad Musa, a physician

at Kasr Al 'Aini hospital. The

Egyptian victims were hit by

shrapnel from one + nb that

bounced off the and exploded io front a coffee

terrible erasb," Ernst

Nowotne, a passenger from

Vienna, said at Kasr Al 'Aini

bospital. "I saw something

coming through the window.

At first I thought it was a

stone, but it was no stone - it

having trouble with his hearing

from the blast. His wife,

Maria, was injured in the foot.

old Cairo area, across from an

ancient mosque and not far from the Hanging Church, so

named becaue its nave is sus-

pended over an ancient for-

Monday's incident was the

first commando-style attack on

foreigners in the Egyptian

capital, where the authorities

have stepped up security for

the Christmas and new year

The militant campaign has.

The attack took place in the

Mr. Nowotne said he was

was a bomb.'

tress gatebouse.

boliday season.

"We beard a terrible noise, a

from Austria.

tag

the

Cairo attack wounds

16 Austrians, Egyptians

mendations of the panel will be submitted to a governing council of the commission in 120 days, said a statement made available to the Jordan Times by the Amman-based Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

(ESCWA), a U.N. agency...
"This would make the compensation operation an irreversible reality and reaffirm the faith of millons of claimants all over the world in the attainment of international justice within the framework of U.N.established organs," the statement said.

It said category B of the claims was being given priority in the commission's review. This relates to the most sensitive bumanitarian cases — deaths and serious injuries."

fudividual claims are entitled to receive \$2,500 each while families will receive a maximum of \$10,000 under this group.

"The majority of claims are from Kuwait and Jordan," the [U.N. statement said, adding that category A also includes claims from Australia, Babrain, China, Czech Republic, France, Iran, Japan, Kenya, Mauritius, New Zealand, Pakistan, Poland, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the United Kingdom, the U.S. and the former Yugosla-

The commission will start work on reviewing claims in the A and C categories in February, with recommendations due in June and settlements expected io July covering up to 50,000 claimants.
The commission has re-

driven away foreign holi-

daymakers, costing Egypt almost \$1.3 billion in lost re-

ceived \$29 million in both voluntary contributions and transfers made to its account from frozen Iraqi assets.

. Western diplomats said another U.N. account had acrued more than \$300 million after several countries, Saudi Arabia and the U.S. among them, transferred outstanding payments to Iraq to that account in line with a separate Security Council re-

· However, many govern-ments, which face claims from local commercial entities of losses as a result of the invasion, have not transferred the oil accounts to the U.N.

Part of the funds already moved to the U.N. is expected to be sent to the compensation fund for individuals in time for the commission to make settlements, diplomats said. The rest could be held back to handle U.N. costs related to implementing the Gulf war

ceasefire terms. Total claims for compensation through the commission, which does not handle government claims or claims from companies which may have lost contracts or incurred other losses as a result of the invasion, are expected to run into nearly \$10 billion.

As and when the Security Council lifts the international sanctions against Iraq and allows the country to export oil, Baghdad is supposed to remit 30 per cent of all oil revenues to the U.N. to settle not only the individual claims but compensation for governments and commercial entities -- a process that could stretch into tens of years. Kuwait alone is expected to file for \$170 billion in damages; an amount that could represent the total oil earnings of Iraq for the next

15 or 20 years. No estimates are available on the possible total of claims that governments and commercial firms are expected to

"In all probability, Iraq could remain crippled under the burden of claims for several decades if Baghdad were to honour its obligations under the U.N. resolutions." commented an Arab diplo-

If Iraq drops its objections and accepts a one-time Iraqi sale of oil worth \$1.6 billion to raise funds for food and medicine for Iraqis then 30 per cent of that proceed would also have been allocated to the compensation fund in addition to another 10 to 15 per cent for U.N. costs related to implementing the Gulf war ceasefire terms.

Mobammad Benouna of Morocco, a professor of law, member of the International Law Commission and president of the Institute du Monde Arabe in Paris, beads the review panel related to category B claims. Other members are Denis Bindsebedler-Robert of Switzerland, a professor of international law and president of the Institute des Droits de l'Homme at Strasbourg, and Fan Ching of China, a renowned diplomat and expert in international humanitarian affairs and compensation procedures.

Hardliners haggle over power, strategy

By Jamal Halaby The Associated Press

The Popular and Democra-

tic Fronts for the Liberation of

Palestine accused Hamas of

seeking to dominate the

alliance of Palestinian forces,

Abdul Rahim Mallouh of

the Popular Front, the second

largest faction within the Pales-

tine Liberation Organisation

(PLO) said Hamas was insist-

ing on controlling nearly half

the 50 seats in a leadership

Mr. Mallouh said Hamas

wanted 40 per cent of the seats

in the council, arguing this

would reflect its strength

among the Palestinians and

"that they are the most active

faction in the occupied territor-

ies against the autonomy

He described the Hamas de-

mand as "unjust and unfair"

for the nine other hardline

factions and independents rep-

resented in the Syria-based

Saji Salameh of the Demo-

crane Front, also rejecting the

Hamas demand, accused the

fundamentalist group of claim-

ing credit for anti-Israeli

attacks in the occupied terri-

tories carried out by his fac-

third largest group within the

PLO, also is upset that Hamas

is making conciliatory gestures

to Israel and holding clandes-

tine meetings with senior

Hamas, whose leaders have

sometimes signalled willing-

Israeli military officers.

The Democratic Front, the

accord.

alliance.

council of the alliance.

established Dec. 16.

AMMAN - Marxist Palestivenue this year, according to nian factions Monday assailed Tourism Minister Mamdouh their fundamentalist peers in a Al Baltagui (see page 2). Witnesses said three young hardline alliance opposed to the Israel-PLO autonomy men lay in wait for the bus in a accord, raising the prospect of roadside cafe near the Amr a split in the newly formed coalition.

"I saw three men sitting in the cafe. A boy stood up holding something round in his hand which looked like a stone aod threw it at the bus," a man in his twenties told Reuters.

People in the cafe stood up to see what was bappening. Suddenly one of the three, he had a revolver in his hand, told everybody 'don't move' and started shooting at the bus.

"Then the three ran away and people ran after them. But they couldn't catch them because they turned round and started shooting again." Police closed all roads into the area, a maze of narrow

alleys and overcrowded tenements, and were bunting for the attackers. Militants have wrecked

Egypt's tourist industry over the last 18 months by shooting and bombing tour buses and Nile river crusers as part of a violent campaign to overthrow the government (see page 2).

The government has fought back, hanging 29 militants since mid-June — the biggest number of executions for political crimes in any year this

Attacks on tourists stopped in June but began again in September, when gunmen shot at two Nile cruisers.

Attacks on police slowed but bave recently surged again. Eighteen policemen have been killed in December, the highest police death toll in any month during two years of ness to take part iil elections for a Palestinian self-rule authority under the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO autonomy deal, re-

jects the charges.

to bring this coalition to life. other groups wil be up to the in judgement.

Mr. Mallouh and Mr.

The Alliance of Palestinian Forces is an unlikely grouping of factions espousing ideologies ranging from Marxism and socialism to religious extremism. They are held together by their common goal of wrecking the 25-month-old, U.S.backed Middle East peace pro-

In addition to the Popular and Democratic Fronts and Hamas, other groups in the

The fundamentalist Islamic Jihad; Hizbollah-Palestine; the Command and Fateh Uprising, a dissident faction of PLO

tifada that paved the way for the current peace process. "The leadership has shoved asided the people wbo have struggled, who have sacrificed for the cause," Mr. Talmas

Mohammad Nazzal, Hamas' representative in Jordan, played down the rift and said "it is only natural to have different viewpoints within a

"We have gone a long way Mr. Nazzal said. "I hope that responsibility and not be hasty

He told the Associated Press that the hardliners would hold meeting in Damascus on Thursday to thrash out their

Salameh said, however, that their parties would insist in Thursday's meeting on elections for the leadership council rather than the system of allocation as proposed by

alliance are:

Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Chairman Yasser Arafat's mainstream group; as well as splinter groups of the pro-Iraq Palestine Liberation Front, the Arab Liberation Front and the Fateh-Revolutionary Council.

Arafat's old guard appointments "It's those people who have for the Palestinians recently, GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip (AP) - A power struggle lived in underground tunnels broke into the open Monday and not in luxurious hotels who should be the leaders of the between young leaders of the uprising in Gaza and the Pales-tine Liberation Organisation (PLO) old guard leadership in Tunis after Yasser Arafat movement. We are protesting the principle of appointment," Mr. Abu Khusa. "What has

happened to democracy? Mr. Agha, who served three months in jail during the uprising and lost his job as head of an Israeli-run hospital for his

named traditional figures to

the PLO chairman appointed

Zakaria Al Agha. a 55-year-

old doctor, as Gaza's Fatah

representative and Mansour

Shawa, 45, as mayor of Gaza, a

position long held by his late

father. Both are traditional

leaders from large influential

Tawfik Abu Khusa, 33, and

Zakaria Talmas, 30, resigned

Monday after the head of the

Fateb office in Gaza, Sami

Abu Samhandanah, 31,

walked out on Sunday night.

Jamil Al Deek, a PLO activist

in the West Bank, also res-

igned, and Palestinian sources

said more departures were ex-

Those who resigned com-

The resignations came after

top posts.

families.

truce

said.

is stillborn

KABUL (R) - Rival forces of

Afghan President Burhanud-

din Rabbani and Prime Minis-

ter Gulbuddin Hekmatyar bat-

tled with rockets and mortars

Monday, shattering an agreed

truce before it could take

Five rockets landed inside

Kabul wounding at least five

people while the two sides ex-

changed rocket and mortar fire

on Sherdarwaza mountains

south of the capital, witnesses

There was no immediate in-

formation about the cause of

the latest fighting, only a day

after the Afghan cabinet

announced a ceasefire between

the two sides to be effective

from Monday in the eastern

districts of Tagob and Sarobi.

Government jets were

bombing Tagob area even on

Monday although four teams

had been sent to the area to

monitor the agreed ceasefire, a

source from Mr. Hekmatyar's

hardline Hezb-e-Islami party

Sunday's truce was aimed

first at stopping about two months of fighting in Tagob

and Sarobi but was later to

have been applied nationally.

Sources at the Defence

Ministry, which is controlled

by Mr. Rabbani, accused

Hezb-e-Islami of starting Mon-

day's fighting. No comment

was immediately available

from Mr. Hekmatyar, who

lives at his fortified Charasyab

Presidential spokesman

Abdul Aziz Morad said forces

loyal to Mr. Rabbani were

prepared to respect the cease-

fire and "it is for Hekmatyar to

choose between war and

The forces of northern war-

lord General Abdul Rashid

Dostum will remain neutral

and try to mediate between the

two sides, a spokesman for

Gen. Rahmatullah Rauft.

Gen. Dostum's representative

in Kabul, appealed to Afghan

leaders to resolve their differ-

The ceasefire had the back-

ing of both the president and

the prime minister, a spokes-

man said on Sunday after a

Gen. Dostum said.

ences peacefully.

cabinet meeting.

base south of Kabul.

peace.

government sources said.

A Palestinian woman and ber children walk past Israeli soldiers on patrol in downtown Gaza

Power struggle hits Gaza after

polincal activism, said the resignees were not the only ones who had suffered. "With all due respect to them." Mr. Agha said. "they are not the only ones who bave sacrificed for Palestine. There are thousands of people who

sacrificed. Freih Abu Medein, a member of the Palestinian team that has been negonating the details of an autonomy agreement with Israel, said the resignations would have no effect on the peace process.

'This is an internal matter that won't have any adverse effects on the implementation plained Mr. Arafat ignored of the accord," the told the local leaders who had paid a Association Press. heavy price in jail time and blood during the six-year in-

The resignations are further signs of a power struggle over who will be in charge when Palestinians gain autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West

Bank region of Jericho. Some resignations, notably that of Hanan Ashrawi, who stepped down as spokeswoman

wer prompted by calls for the PLO to be more democratic and complaints that Mr. Arafat made decisions without consulting colleagues. Six of the 18-member PLO Executive Committee in Tunis have also resigned.

"There is something wrong with the PLO system that cannot be fixed, and that is wby 1 decided to quit." said Mr. Abu Samhandanah, a refugee from the Rafah camp, who played a leading rule in mustering the support of young Palestinians for the Israel-PLO aecord. signed Sept. 13.

Mr. Abu Samhadanah. Mr. Abu Kbusa and Mr. Talmas represent the younger generation of Palestinians molded in the street battles of the intifa-

Mr. Abu Samhadanah served a total of nine years in Israeli jails. including five years in which he was held in 'administrative detention" without trial for being a leader of the underground. Mr. Abu Khusa, jailed a dozen times, served five years and Mr. Talmas two years.

From the "occupation generation," many are fluent in Hebrew but had credibility with fugitive underground fighters and thus became an address for Israel in seeking solutions to local problems.

LONDON (R) -A 59-year

British woman aged 59 gives birth to twins

old Britan has become the oldest woman on record to have twins after giving bitth to test-tube babies on Christmas Day, a British newspaper reported Monday. The woman, who was not named. Was given fertility treatment by controversial Italian doctor Severino Antinori and had her babies by Caesarean section in a London clinic Saturday, the Sun said in what it hilled as a world exclusive. The case caused a fierce controversy about post-menopausal mothers when it first became public in July, mid-way through the woman's pregnancy. The Sun ran six pages of comment about the ethics of the birth, noting that the mother would be 77 when her children reached official adulthood at age 18. The average British woman's lifespan is 78, it said. Dr. Antinori has helped a succession of women over 50 become mother and another of his patients, a 58-vear-old Swedish woman, gave birth to twins in August. The British mother, said to be a wealthy businesswoman with no other children, was implanted with four embryos after her husband's sperm were used to fertilise eggs donated by an anonymous Italian woman in ber 20s. The report, which put the cost of the treatment at around £4,000 (\$6,000), did not give the sex of the babies or the name of the London clinic. It said the woman turned 59 last month and was married to a 45-year-old economist.

Holiday-makers hurt in S. Africa beach brawl

JOHANNESBURG (R) -Dozens of holiday-makers were hurt in brawling between blacks, whites and Indians on a beach in South Africa's port city of Durban, police and wit-nesses said Monday. Fighting broke out Sunday afternoon after a white man shot at a fleeing mugger. He missed but hit a black. At the same time a man died of a heart attack in a paddling pool. "Although un-connected, the incidents caused crowds of people to become very unruly and they vented their anger on policemen on the scene," a police spokesman said. Police broke up fights between blacks and O wbites and then between blacks and Indian crowds, a witness said. "The uproar lasted about an hour. None of the injuries wereserious but police had to fire warning shots into the air to break up the warring factions. Several police vehicles were damaged," the spokesman said. No-one was arrested. Reformist President F.W. De Klerk desegregated beaches in Octo-ber 1989, a few months before he freed ANC leader Nelson Mandela, unbanned political groups and began negoriations to dismaotle apartheid.

Japanese parliament is millionaires club

TOKYO (R) - The son and

nephew of a gambling tycoon are the richest members of Japan's parliament, while Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa is the deputy deepest in debt, according to a parliamentary report issued Monday. The report said the average Japanese member of parliament owned assets worth 91.3 million yen (\$830.000) and had loans of about 36.5 million yen (\$331,000). Average assets were down about 1.5 per cent from a similar report issued in June, before general elections in July. The latest report said the richest of the 511-member lower house was Eitaro Itoyama, a conservative without party affiliation and nephew of gambling magnate Ryoichi Sasagawa. Mr. Itoyama's assets were worth about 5.05 billion yen (\$45. 9 million). Mr. Sasagawa's son Takashi, also a lower house member, came in second with 4.09 billion yen (\$37.1 million) in assets. The elder Sasagawa controls the country's popular and lucrative motorboat racing circuit in which punters wager on uniformly powered hosts of n circular course. Hosokawa 6 assets were 98 million yen (\$890,000) against bank and other loans outstanding worth 930 million yen (\$8.45 million) and attributable to his political campaigns, the report said.

U.N.-Aideed row Port explosion sparks new

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — An explosion damaged part of the U.N.-held new port in Mogadishu on Monday and U.N. officers said they suspected it was in revenge for U.S. troops shooting two Somali militiamen.

The blast blew apart a 20metre section of wall and 15 roadside stalls and tea sboos and wrecked three shipping containers used as barricades. No casualties were reported.

The Somalia National Alliance (SNA), the nmbrella group led by warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed, blamed the United Nations, saying a U.S. ship had fired a missile at the port in a ploy to drag SNA A spokesman for the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) denied this and said Somalis were responsible. "It is our information the

explosion was probably caused by dynamite, possibly with a timed device... this was the work of locals," added the spokesman, Major Tim Mac-

UNOSOM officers said they believed the attack was in revenge for U.S. troops shooting Somali militiamen in a "technical" battle wagon — a pickup truck mounted with a light machinegun — near the port

U.N. officials said soldiers fired two shots at the vebicle and both bit passengers. One was presumed dead after be fell out of the truck and his body was taken away by Somalis. The other wounded man was driven off in the pickup.

The SNA said two civilians were killed and two wounded by U.S. snipers in the shooting near the port. A spokesman urged U.N. and U.S. forces to stop firing on Somalis for no reason but also warned armed Somalis to stay away from U.N. positions.

A senior aide of General Aideed, Issa Mohammad Siad, said the warlord's faction was still bound by a ceasefire signed in March in Addis Aba-

Mr. Issa hinted that Gen. Aideed's enemy and rival factional leader Ali Mahdi Mohammad could have been behind the blast.

SNA spokesman Abdi Absbir Kahiye said weapons experts from the group had inspected the site of the explosion and it could not bave been caused by any weapons possessed by the militia.

The blast was near an area where a land mine destroyed two U.S. Humvee vehicles in September, when U.S. forces were fighting Gen. Aideed's

"This is another act of provocation by the U.S. and UN-OSOM forces against the SNA and the Somali people," Mr. Kahiye said. "An American sbip fired a missile into defenceless Somali people.

"They want to provoke us to

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ghali receives message from Libya

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - Libya's ambassador to China delivered a message from his government to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali in Beijing at the weekend, Dr. Ghali's spokesman said Monday. The spokesman gave no detail about the message from Libyan Foreign Minister Omar Al Muntasser, but it came a month after the Security Council tightened sanctions against Tripoli for its refusal to hand over two men suspected of blowing up a U.S. airliners over Scotland in 1988, killing 270 people. The message was handed over by Libya's ambassador to China, Muftah Madi, in a meeting with Dr. Ghali in Beijing Sunday.

Demirel disappointed over tles with Greece

ANKARA (AP) - President Suleyman Demirel on Monday accused Greece of creating tensions that could threaten regional stability. Mr. Demirel said Greece was including Turkey, Macedonia, Thrace the Aegean and Cyprus "in the region of Hellenistic and political doctrine," creating teosion and futile struggles. "I would like to hope that Greece will refrain from initiatives that could wreck stability in the region," Mr. Demirel told a news conference.

Talabani group claims victory in clashes

NICOSIA (AP) — The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) claimed victory Monday in week-long clashes with the small fundamentalist Islamic Movement in Kurdistan (IMK). Scores of IMK militiamen and senior officials have surrendered to the PUK in most parts of (Iraqi) Kordistan," said a PUK communique. It gave no casualty figures. It added that the leader of the Islamic Movement of Kurdistan. Mullah Osman Abdul Aziz, was reportedly being escorted to Irbil in the company of the commander of the PUK forces, Jalal Talabani. The communique was telephoned to the Associated Press by the "regional government of Iraqi Kurdistan." The "government" was established in the autonomous Kurdish region carved out in northern Iraq in the wake of the 1991 Gulf

Turkish minister holds talks in Qatar

DOHA (AP) - Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin held talks Monday with the Qatari leadership designed to enhance traditional close relations and coordinate policies on regional issues. Mr. Cetin, who arrived in Qatar on Sunday, was received by the emir, Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani, Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani and Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Jassem Ben Jabr Al Thani. The official Qatar news agency said the talks covered means of expanding relations in the political, economic and trade fields, the Middle East peace process and Bosnia-Herzegovina. No details were provided but the agency also reported that Mr. Cetin delivered a message from Prime Minister Tansu Ciller to the crown prince, who would be her

24 killed, 100,000 affected by typhoon Nell-

MANILA (AFP) - At least 24 people were killed and 16 others reported missing as typhoon Nell swept across the central and southern Philippines prompting President Fidel Ramos to declare a state of calamity, officials said Monday. The government's National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) said 109,256 people were either left homeless or had their farms and property damaged during Nell's rampage Sunday. Nell, the third powerful typhoon to strike the country this month, slammed into the northern end of the main southern island of Mindanao early Sunday before slashing across a string of islands in the central Philippines overnight.

